

# YU-UYU

## HAKUSHO



SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

**Yoshihiro Togashi**

volume

**18**





### MANGA TERMS DICTIONARY 3

AUTOGRAPH: SYNONYM: SKETCH. A NAME ISN'T EVEN NEEDED MOST OF THE TIME.  
HEART TROUBLE: A HANDICAP FOR A MAIN CHARACTER. FOR AN ENEMY, FORESHADOWING OF HIS DEMISE.

SCREENTONE: I LOVE THIS PART THE MOST ABOUT THE WORK, BUT...I NEVER HAVE TIME TO DO IT.

SETUP: IT ALWAYS BECOMES AN IMPEDIMENT IN A LONG-RUNNING SERIES.

DIVERT: MODIFYING A TITLE TO GO A CERTAIN DIRECTION BECAUSE POPULARITY TOOK HOLD IN AN UNEXPECTED WAY.

—YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI, 1994

Born in 1966, Yoshihiro Togashi won the prestigious Tezuka Award for new manga artists at the age of 20. He debuted in Japan's WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP magazine in 1988 with the romantic comedy manga **Tende Showaru Cupid**. His hit comic **YuYu Hakusho** ran in WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP from 1990 to 1994. Togashi's other manga include **I'm Not Afraid of Wolves!**, **Level E** and **Hunter x Hunter**. **Hunter x Hunter** is also available through VIZ Media.



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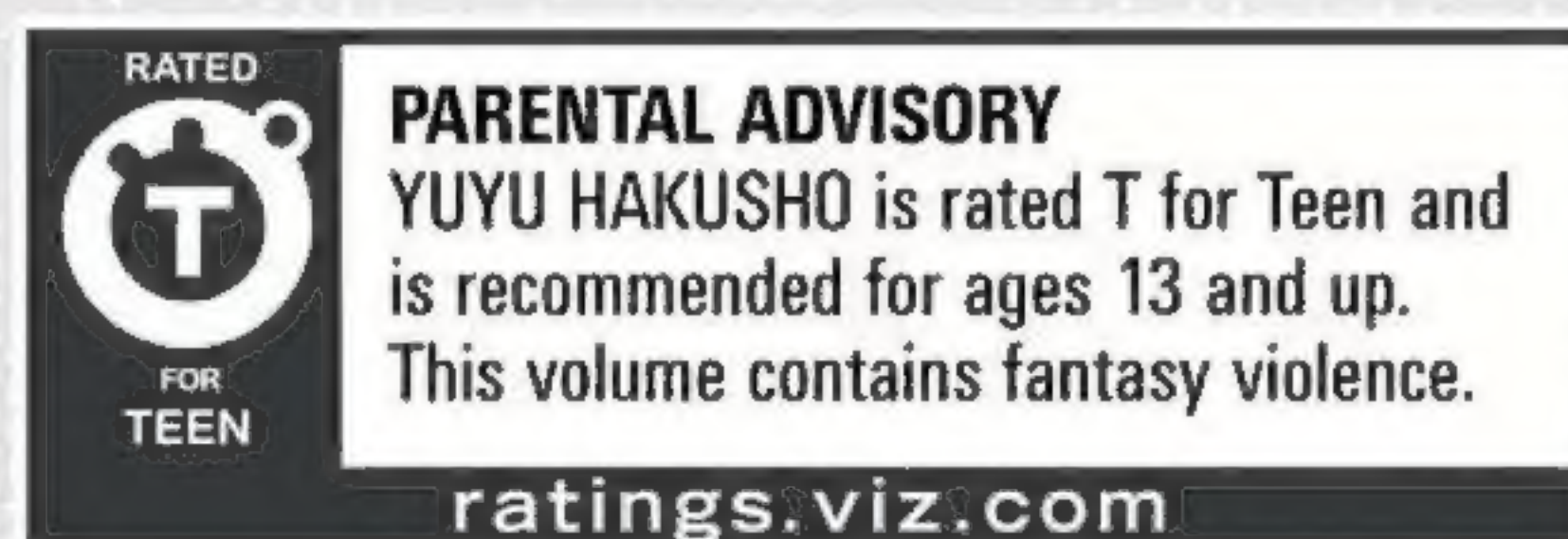
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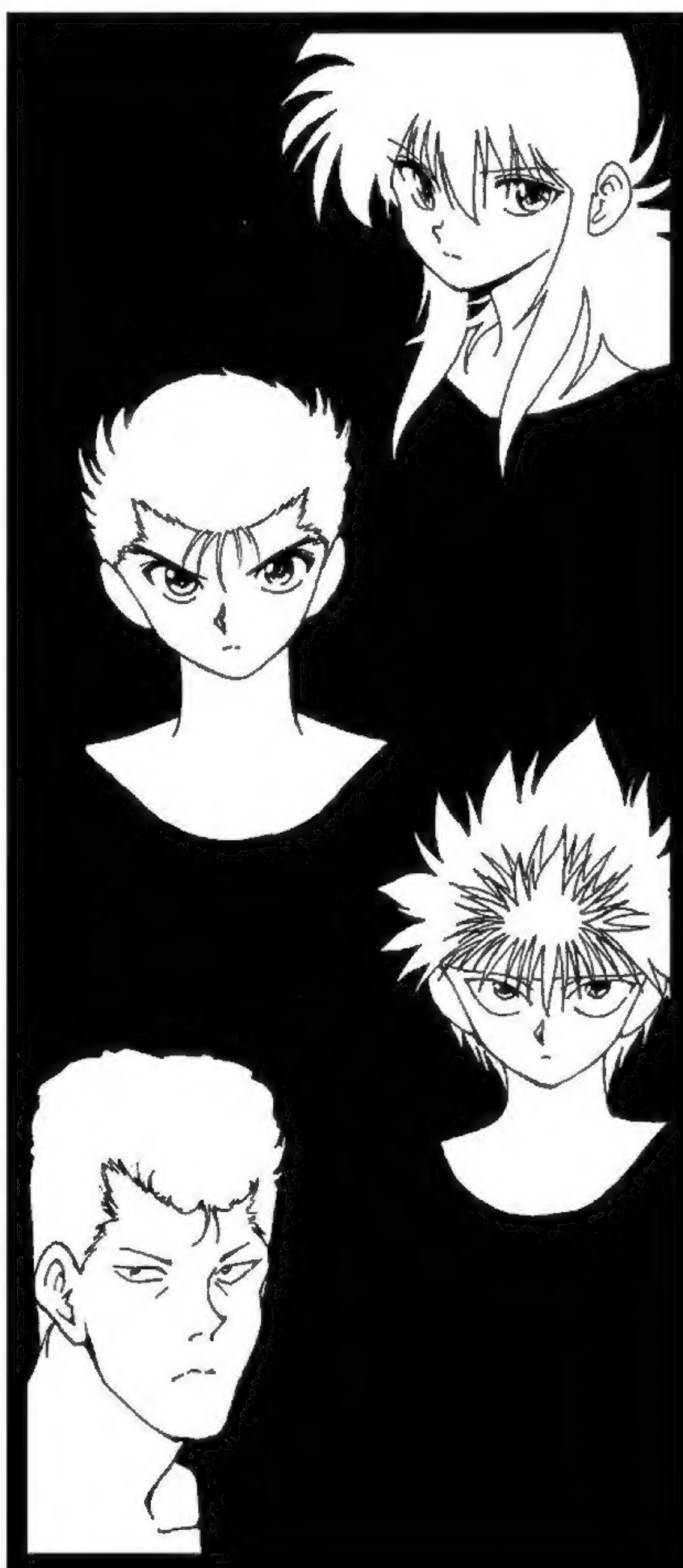


SHONEN JUMP MANGA

# YU YU HAKUSHO

**Vol.18**

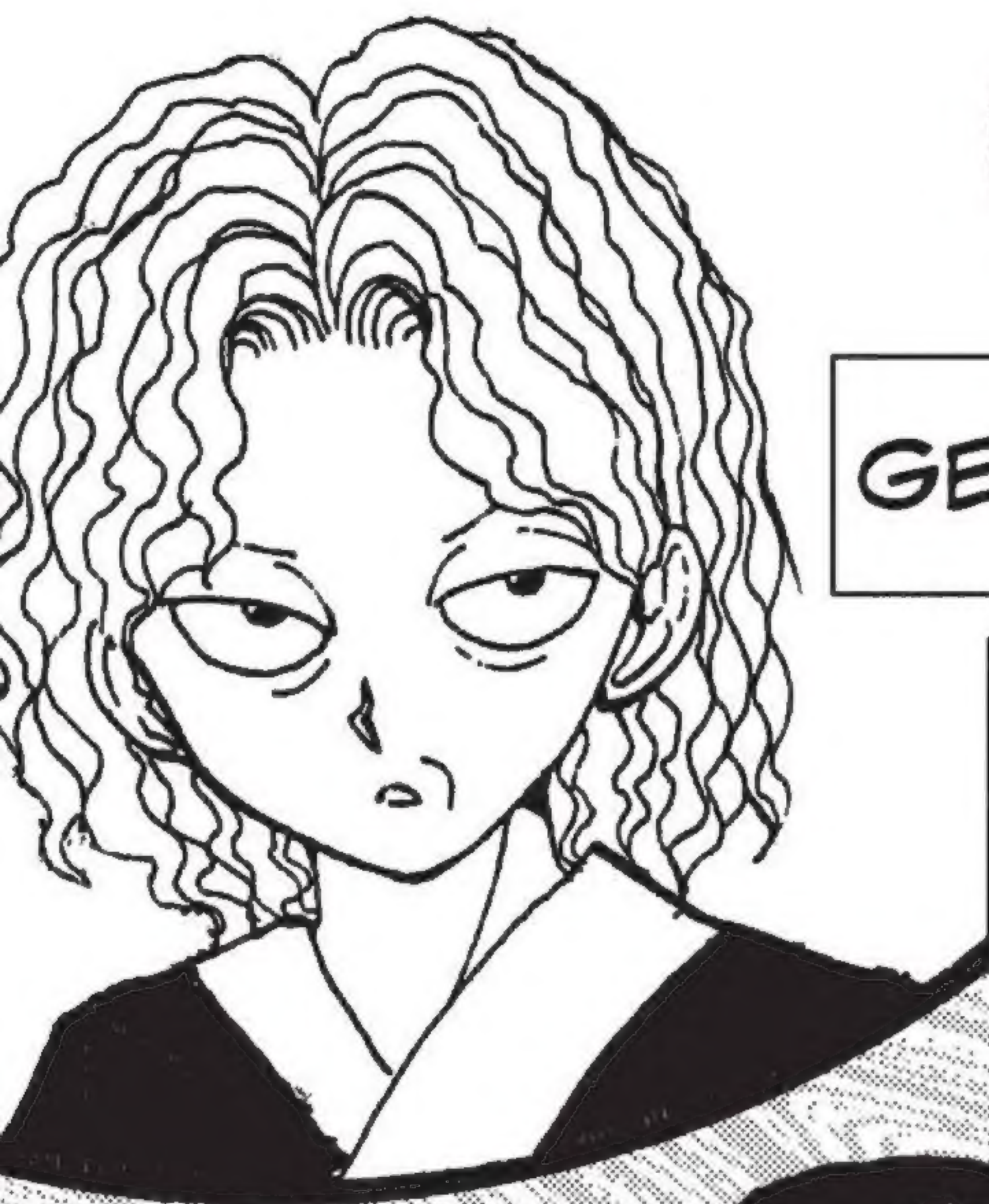
**The Demon Plane Unification Tournament**



STORY AND ART BY  
**YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI**



# CAST OF CHARACTERS:



GENKAI

KAZUMA  
KUWABARA

KURAMA

YUSUKE  
URAMESHI

KOENMA

HIEI

YUKINA





RAIZEN



MUKURO



YOMI

## The Story So Far

THIS IS THE STORY OF HAPLESS LOU YUSUKE URAMESHI. KILLED BY A CAR WHILE TRYING TO SAVE A KID, HE BECAME A GHOST, BUT WAS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE AFTER OVERCOMING A SERIES OF ORDEALS SET BY KING ENMA. HE NOW WORKS AS AN UNDERWORLD DETECTIVE, AND HAS THUS EARNED THE ENMITY OF A HOST OF DEMONS.

SENSUI'S PLOT TO GIVE THE DENIZENS OF THE DEMON PLANE OPEN ACCESS TO THE HUMAN WORLD IS THWARTED BY YUSUKE, WHO IS AWAKENED TO THE POWERS OF HIS DEMON BLOOD. YUSUKE PAYS A VISIT TO KUROKO SANADA, THE VERY FIRST UNDERWORLD DETECTIVE, AND FINDS OUT THAT HIS ANCESTRAL DEMON FATHER, RAIZEN, STILL LIVES—THOUGH JUST BARELY! THE CONFLICT BETWEEN RAIZO, MUKURO, AND YOMI IS SHAKING THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF THE DEMON PLANE... BUT WHAT PART WILL YUSUKE PLAY?!



YUYU HAKUSHO VOLUME 18 The Demon Plane Unification Tournament

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HOW THEY  
SPENT THEIR YEAR:  
HIEI, PART 1





AN ICE MAIDEN'S LIFESPAN IS INFINITE.  
SHE BEARS ONE CHILD EVERY 100 YEARS,  
BY PARTHENOGENESIS,  
SO IT IS ALWAYS FEMALE...  
UNLESS THE MOTHER HAS BEEN  
INTIMATE WITH A MAN.

DOYENNE, WHAT  
SHOULD WE DO  
ABOUT THIS?

A BOY AND  
A GIRL!  
TWINS! THIS IS  
UNPRECEDENTED!

THE GIRL WILL BE  
ONE OF US, BUT  
THE BOY...  
I SHUDDER AT THE  
PROSPECT HE  
PRESENTS.

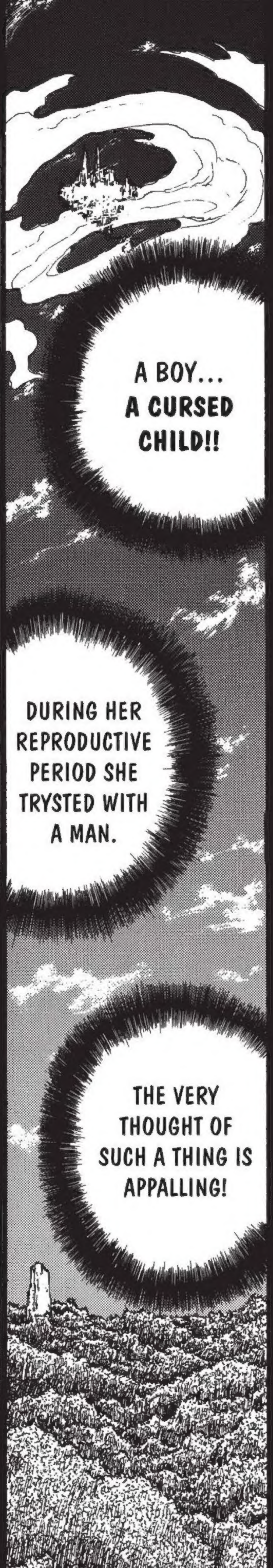
I COULD SEE AND  
HEAR WHILE STILL  
IN THE WOMB.

I WONDERED WHAT  
THAT MEANT. DID I,  
PERHAPS, HAVE THE  
POWER TO ROAST  
THEM ALIVE? I'D HAVE  
ENJOYED THAT.

A BOY...  
A CURSED  
CHILD!!

DURING HER  
REPRODUCTIVE  
PERIOD SHE  
TRYSTED WITH  
A MAN.

THE VERY  
THOUGHT OF  
SUCH A THING IS  
APPALLING!





WHEN AN ICE MAIDEN BREEDS WITH A MALE, THE RESULTING OFFSPRING IS ALWAYS A MALE AND TAKES ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FATHER, WHICH SEEMS TO EXPLAIN WHY MOST END UP VICIOUS AND RUTHLESS. AS FOR THE MOTHER, SHE NEVER SURVIVES GIVING BIRTH TO A MALE. CLEARLY THESE FACTORS ARE NOT CONDUCTIVE TO THE PRESERVATION OF THEIR KIND.

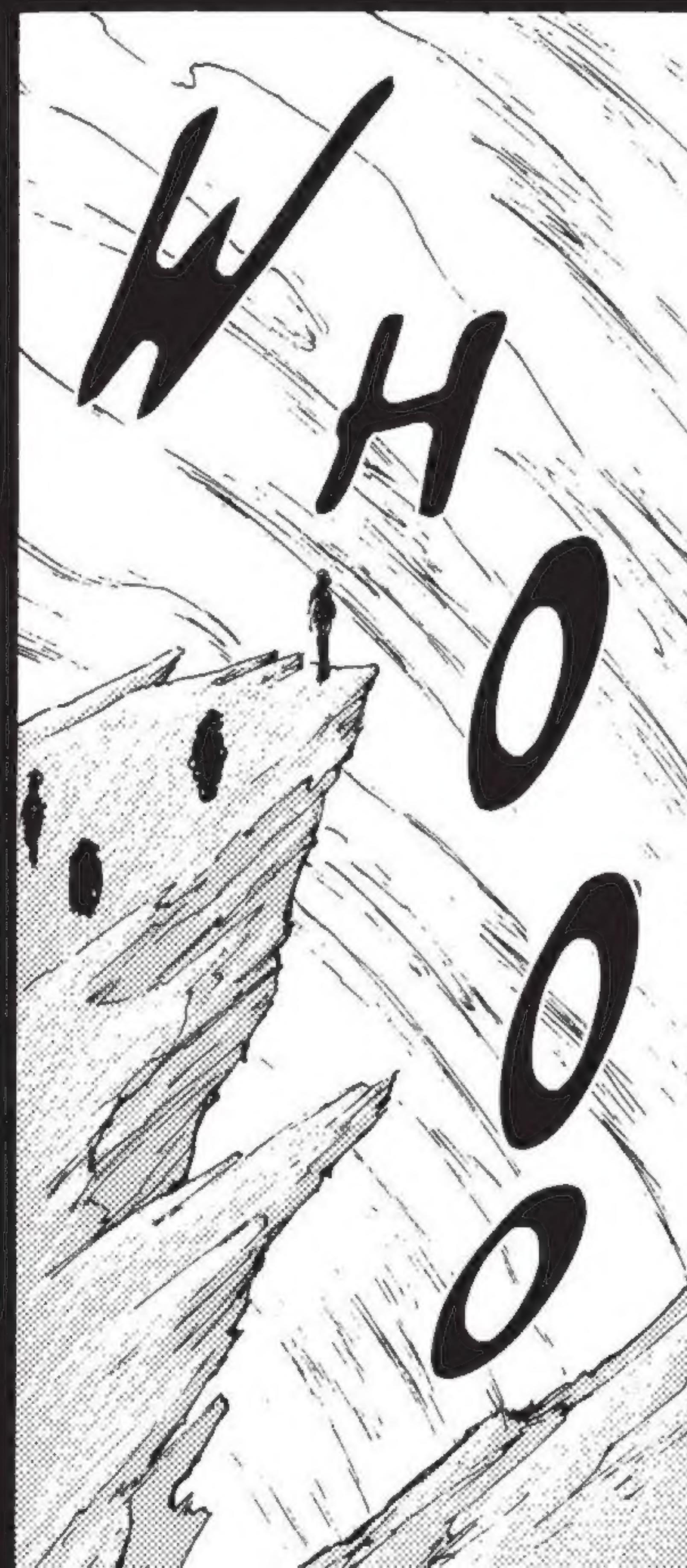
ICE MAIDENS ARE CLOISTERED IN A FLOATING CASTLE (THE GLACIAL COUNTRY) ENVELOPED IN DENSE CLOUDS, AVOIDING INTERACTION WITH THE WORLD BELOW. THE REASON?



BUT THIS CHILD, AS WITH SO MANY BEFORE, WILL BE A PLAGUE UPON US. WOULD HINA WANT THAT?

RUI...WE KNOW YOU WERE CLOSE TO HINA.

DO WHAT YOU MUST!!







I FIGURED  
I COULD SURVIVE  
ON MY OWN.

AND I ALREADY  
HAD A GOAL IN LIFE.  
I WOULD GO BACK AND  
COMPLETELY JUSTIFY  
THAT CRONE'S FEARS!

THAT  
DREAM  
AGAIN...



...



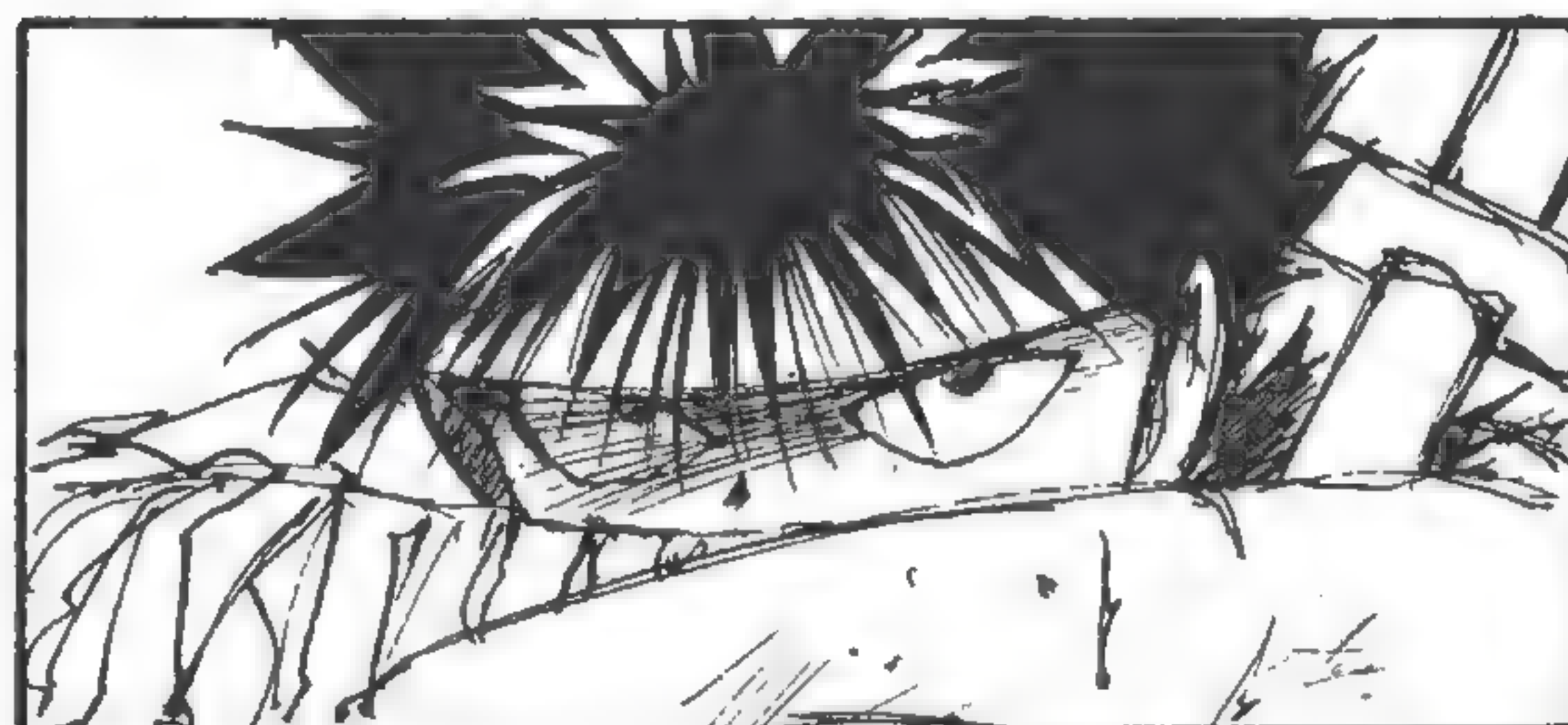






I'M QUITE PLEASED.

YOU'VE MADE AMAZING PROGRESS IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS.



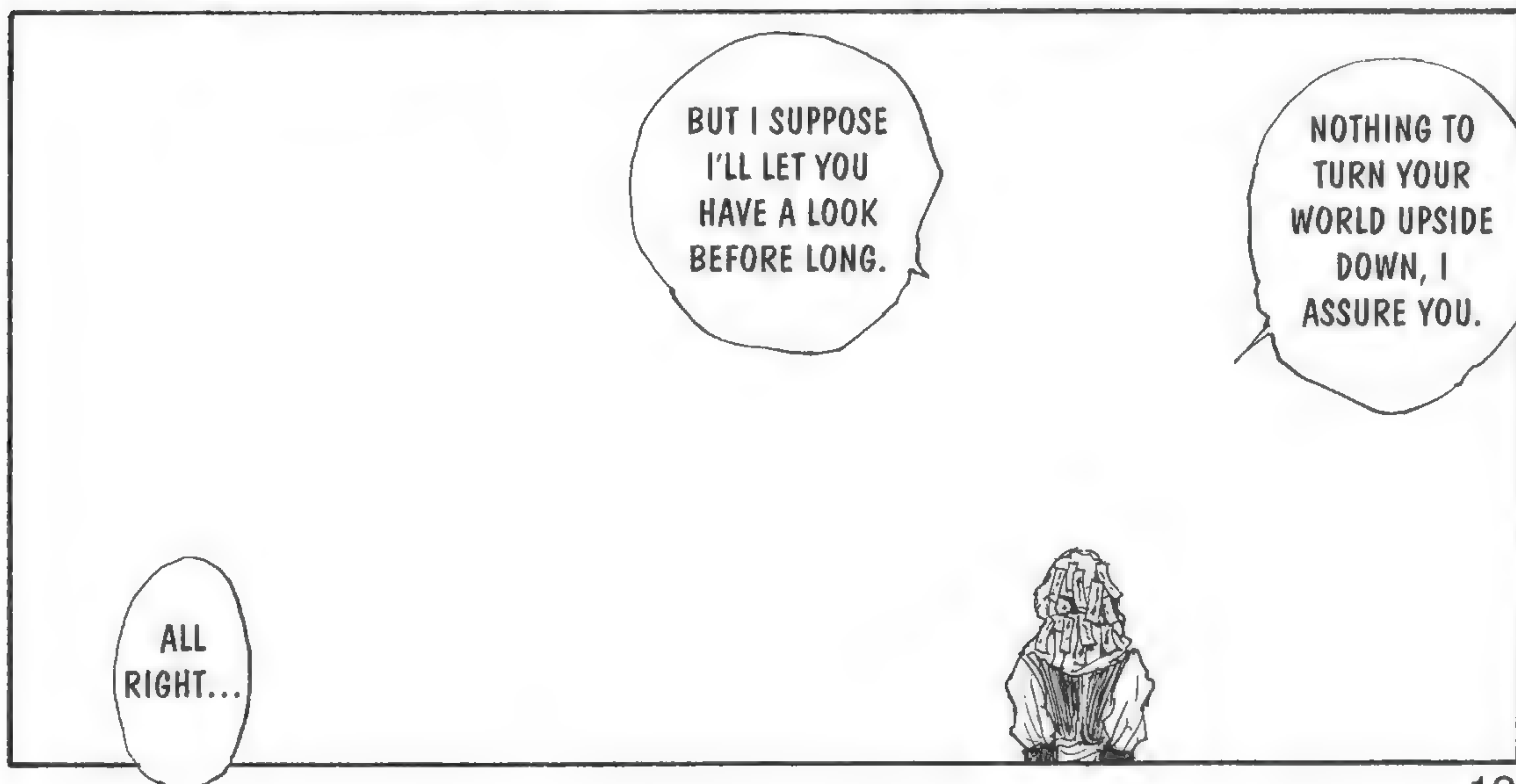
YOU MAY SOON BE READY TO FIGHT ONE OF MY LIEUTENANTS.

I SEE CLASS-A DEMONS STAND NO CHANCE AGAINST YOU.



WHAT KIND OF DEMON ARE YOU? WHAT DO THOSE WRAPPINGS CONCEAL?

THE STRONGER I GET, THE LESS CERTAIN I AM OF YOU, YOU MONSTER.



BUT I SUPPOSE I'LL LET YOU HAVE A LOOK BEFORE LONG.

NOTHING TO TURN YOUR WORLD UPSIDE DOWN, I ASSURE YOU.

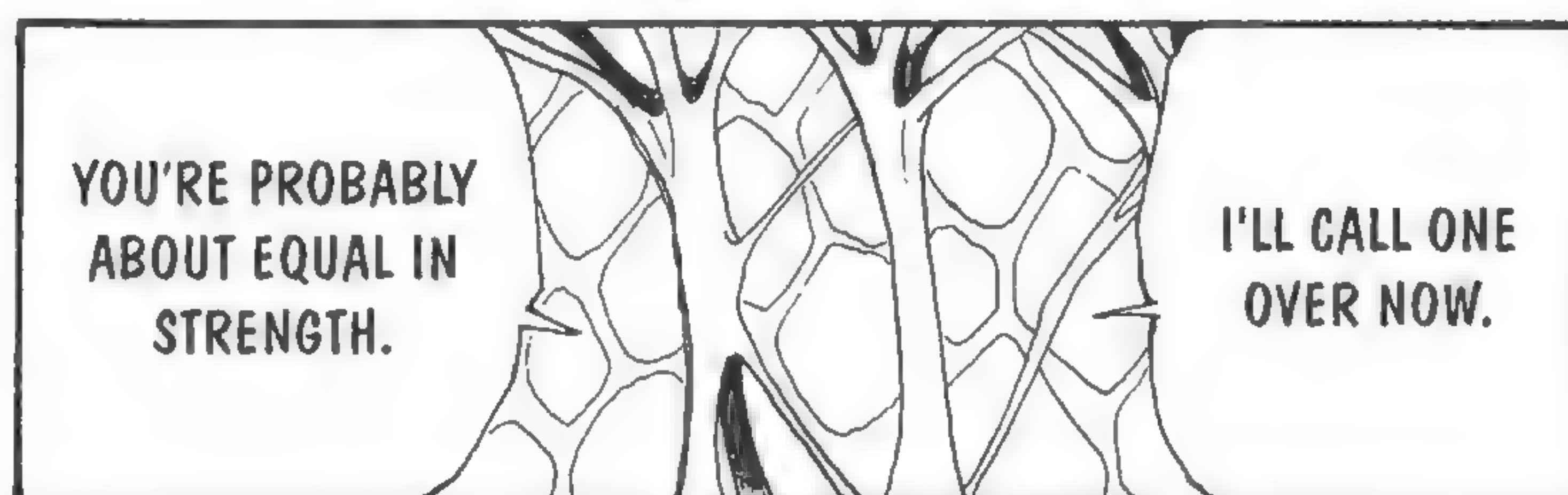
ALL RIGHT...





DEFEAT HIM, AND  
YOU'LL GAIN HIS TITLE  
OF WARRIOR. I'LL  
ALSO REVEAL MYSELF  
IN THE BARGAIN.

...LET'S  
PROCEED.  
THIS TIME YOU  
GET A REAL  
OPPONENT.



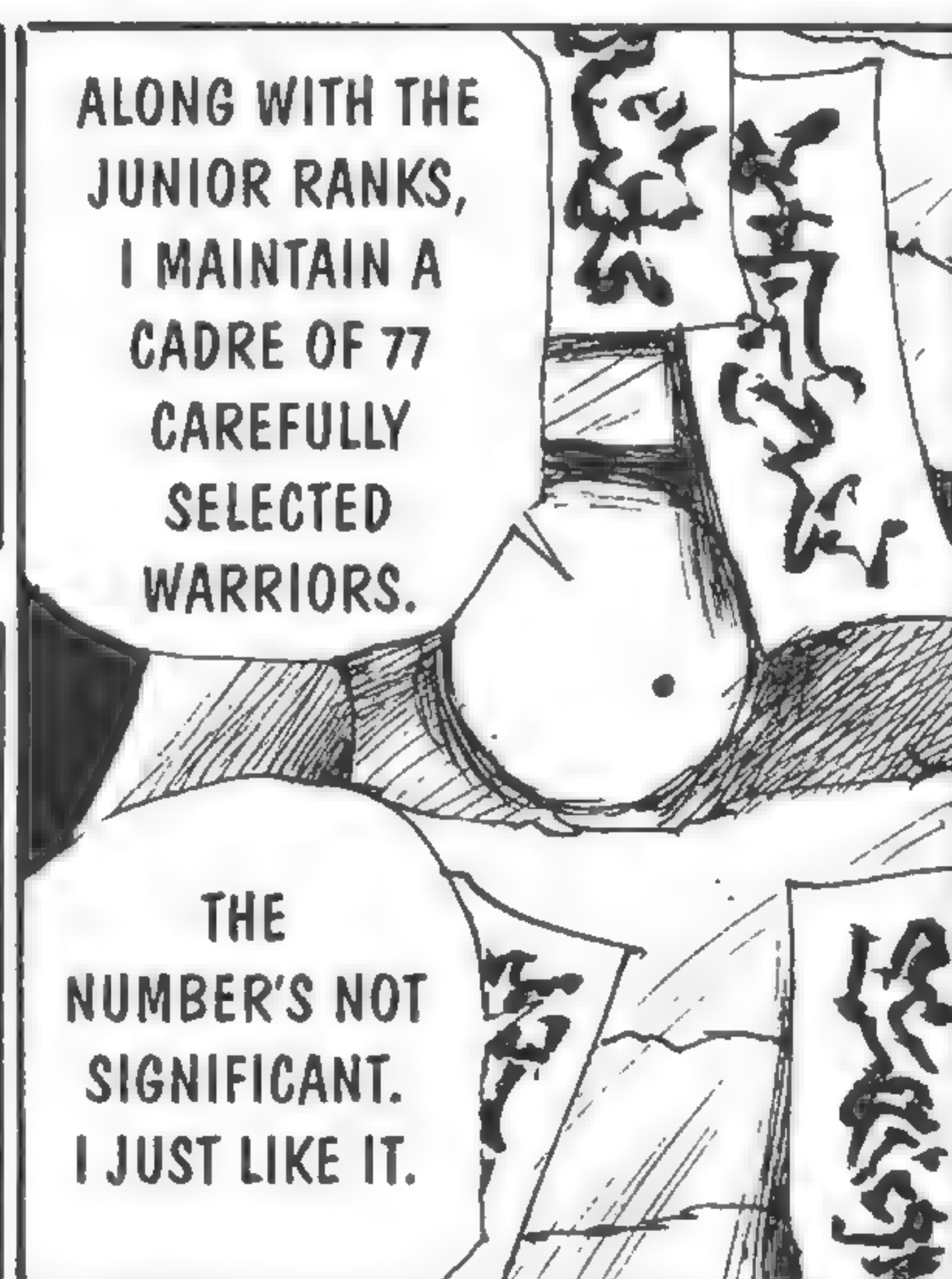
YOU'RE PROBABLY  
ABOUT EQUAL IN  
STRENGTH.

I'LL CALL ONE  
OVER NOW.



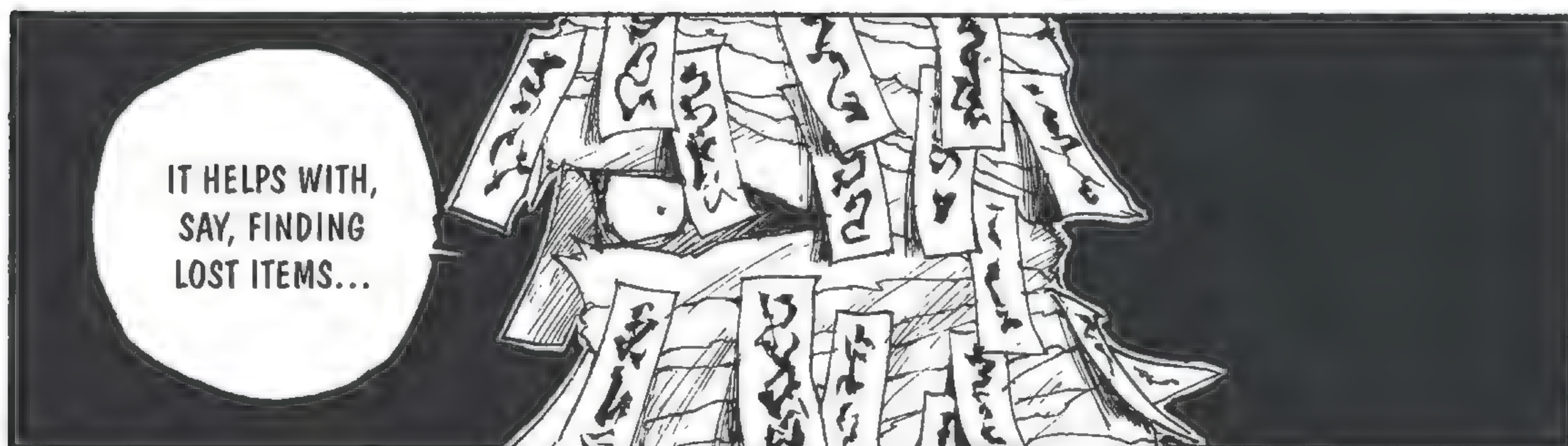
TITLES CAN BE  
USEFUL, MY FRIEND.  
MOST DEMONS ARE  
VERY COOPERATIVE  
WITH THOSE WHO  
HAVE ATTAINED A  
PLACE AMONG MY  
WARRIORS.

SCREW THE  
TITLE AND ALL  
THE REST. LET'S  
JUST DO THIS.



ALONG WITH THE  
JUNIOR RANKS,  
I MAINTAIN A  
CADRE OF 77  
CAREFULLY  
SELECTED  
WARRIORS.

THE  
NUMBER'S NOT  
SIGNIFICANT.  
I JUST LIKE IT.



IT HELPS WITH,  
SAY, FINDING  
LOST ITEMS...





I'LL BE  
RIGHT  
BACK.

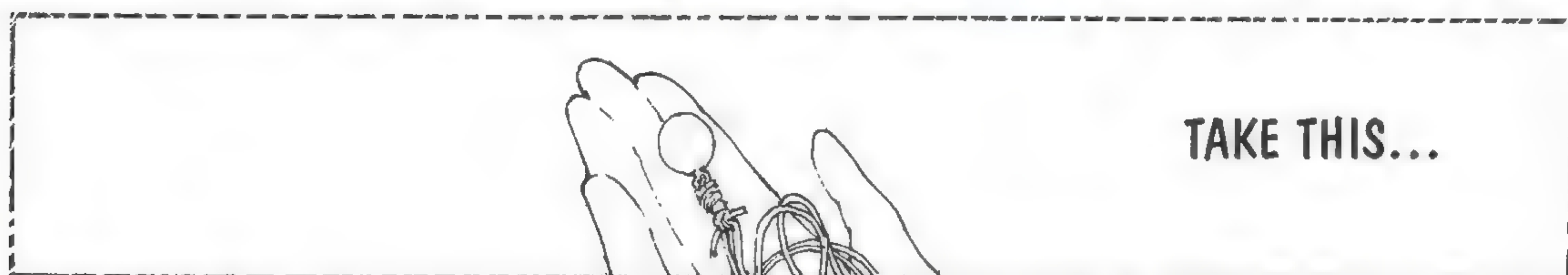
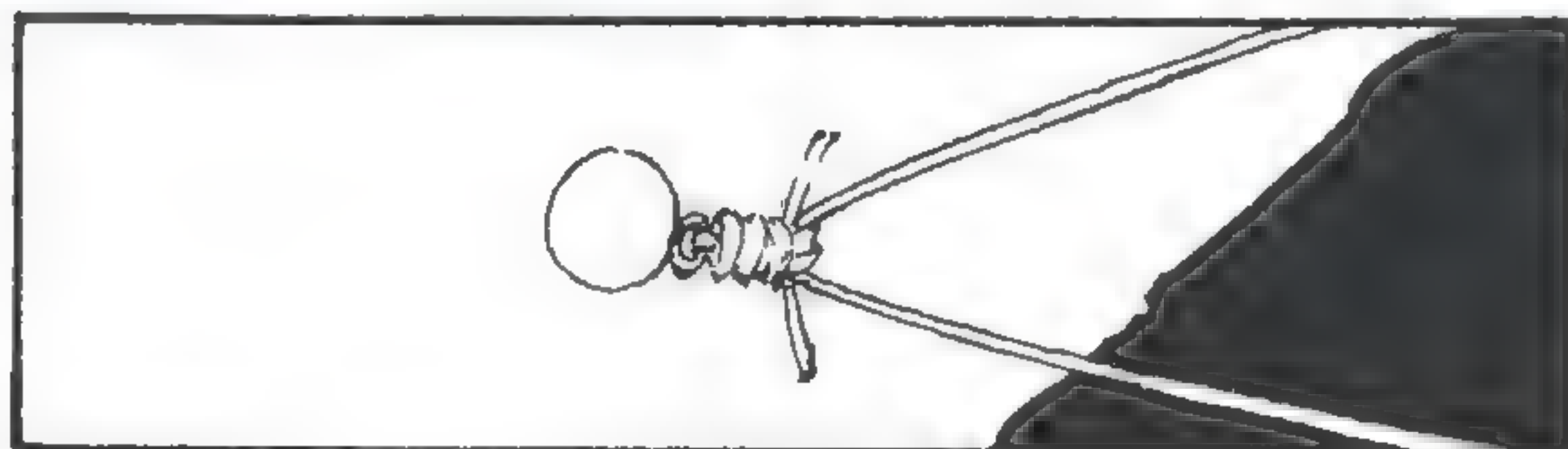


...PLAYING THE  
MIND READER  
LIKE THAT.

GUESS HE'S  
TRYING TO  
CREEP ME  
OUT...











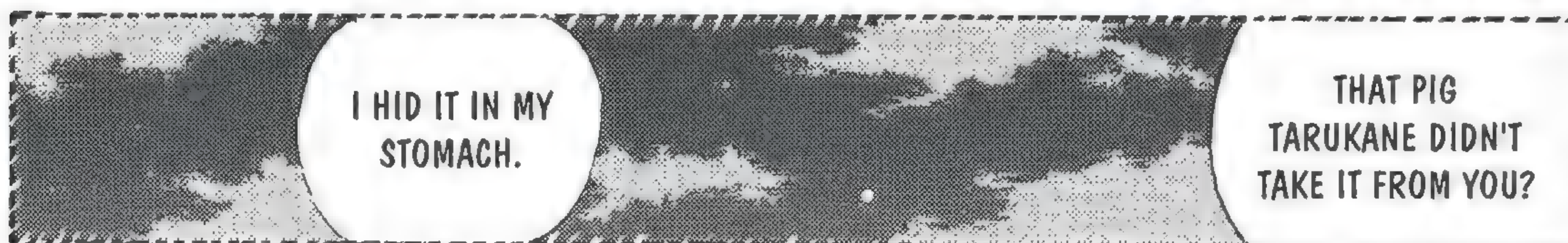
...THE OTHER  
SHOULD BE MY  
BROTHER'S.

ONE IS  
MINE,  
AND...

IT SOLIDIFIES  
INTO A CRYSTAL  
THAT'S GIVEN TO  
THE BABY.

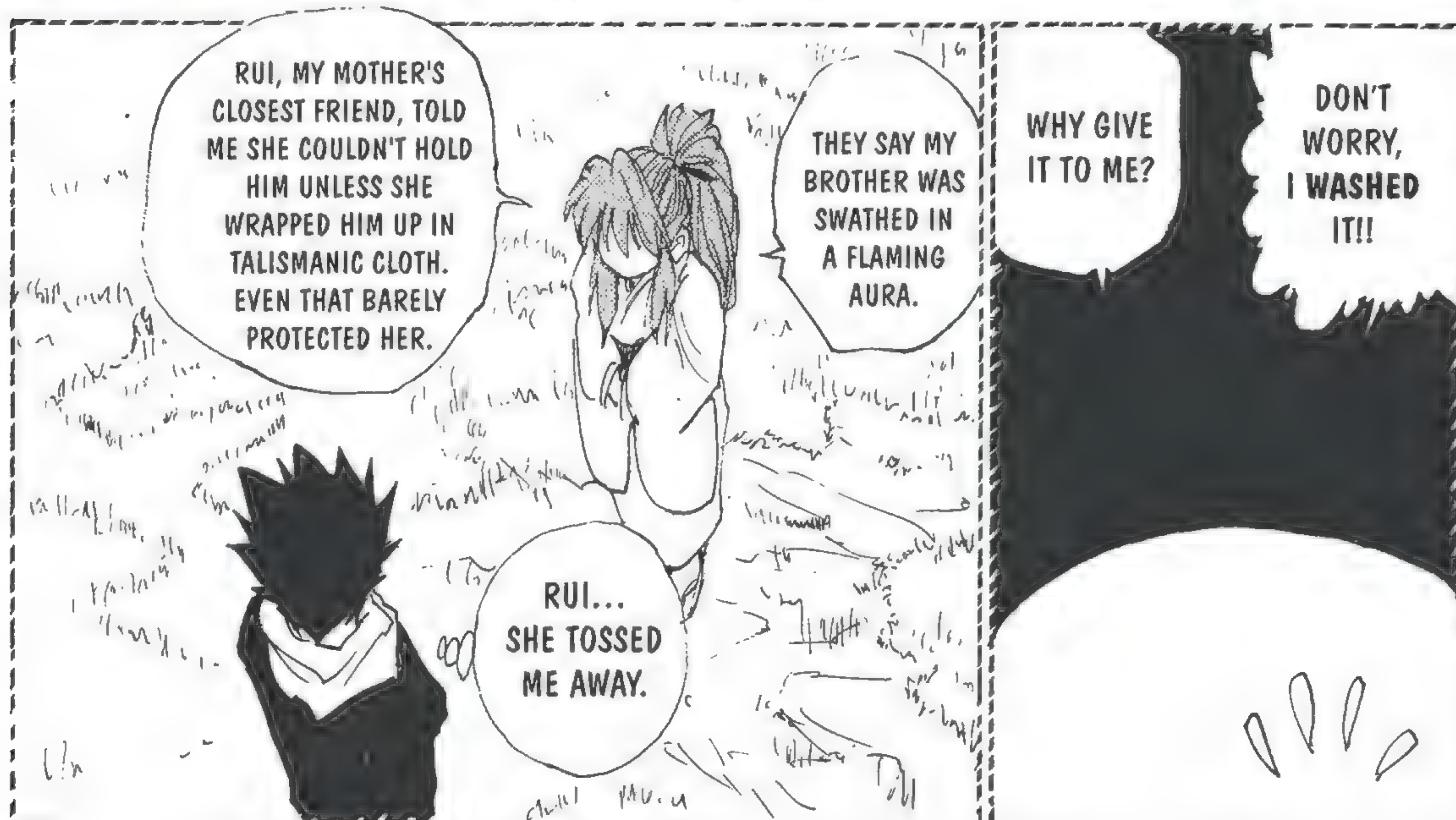
ICE MAIDENS  
GIVING BIRTH  
SHED A SINGLE  
TEAR.

YET MY MOTHER  
HINA, HAVING  
TWINS, SHED  
TWO TEARS.



I HID IT IN MY  
STOMACH.

THAT PIG  
TARUKANE DIDN'T  
TAKE IT FROM YOU?



RUI, MY MOTHER'S  
CLOSEST FRIEND, TOLD  
ME SHE COULDN'T HOLD  
HIM UNLESS SHE  
WRAPPED HIM UP IN  
TALISMANIC CLOTH.  
EVEN THAT BARELY  
PROTECTED HER.

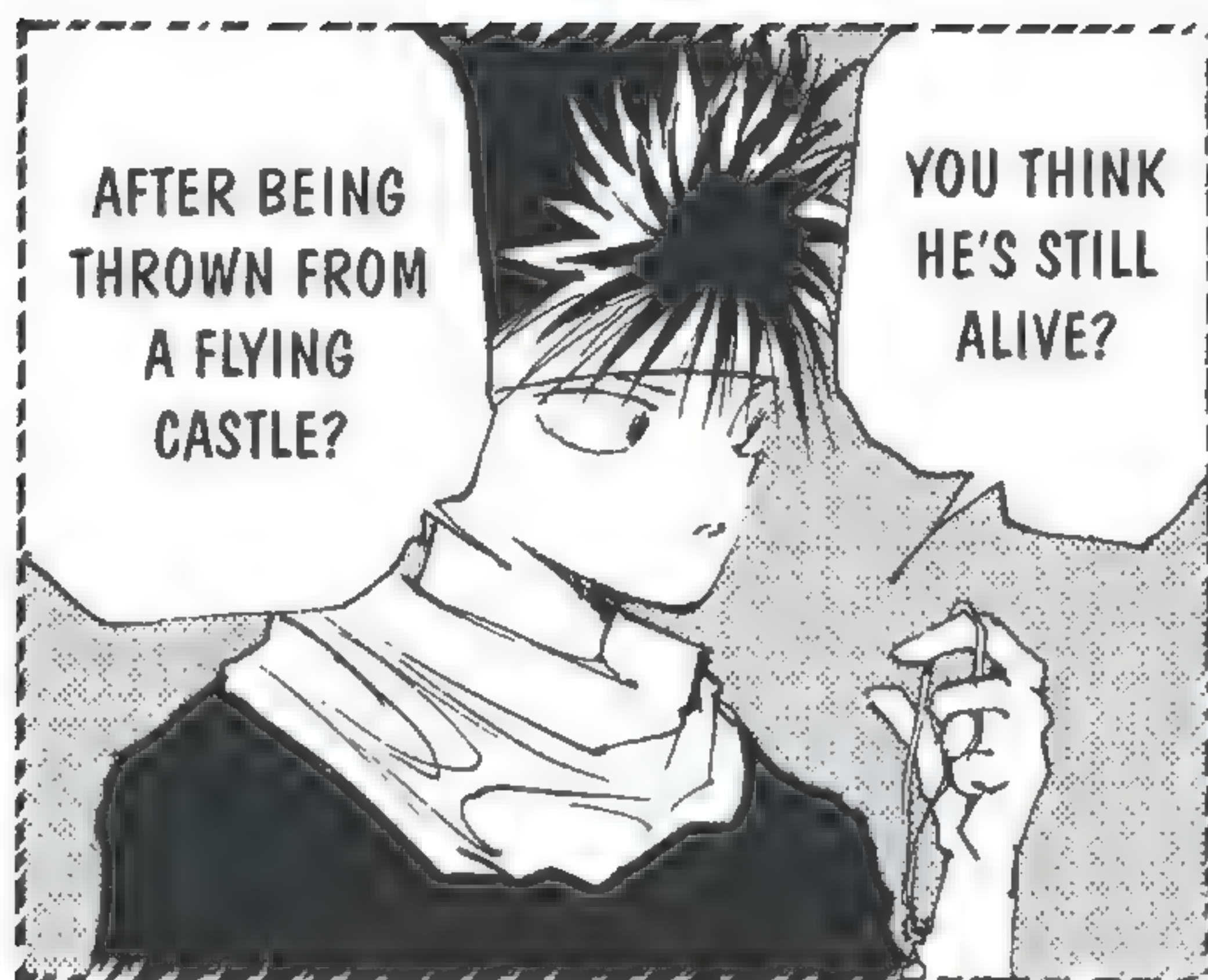
THEY SAY MY  
BROTHER WAS  
SWATHED IN A  
FLAMING  
AURA.

WHY GIVE  
IT TO ME?

DON'T  
WORRY,  
I WASHED  
IT!!

RUI...  
SHE TOSSED  
ME AWAY.





AFTER BEING  
THROWN FROM  
A FLYING  
CASTLE?

YOU THINK  
HE'S STILL  
ALIVE?



IF YOU EVER MEET  
A BOY WITH A  
SIMILAR JEWEL,  
TELL HIM I'M IN  
THE HUMAN  
WORLD.

I THINK  
PERHAPS  
YOU'RE MUCH  
LIKE HIM.



...

I HAVE NO  
DOUBT OF IT.

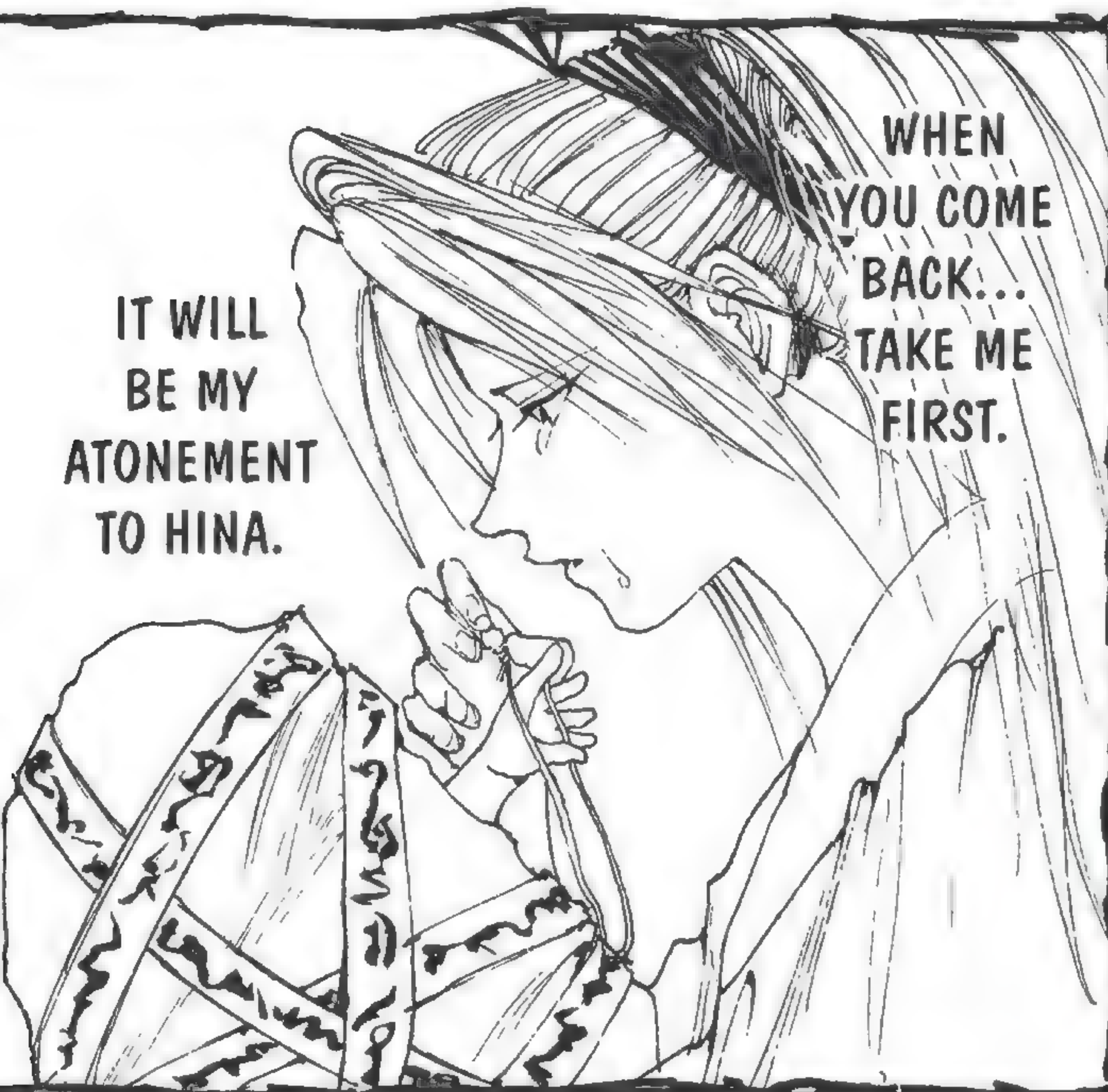


I BELIEVE  
THAT WILL  
HAPPEN.



RUI ALSO  
TOLD ME...

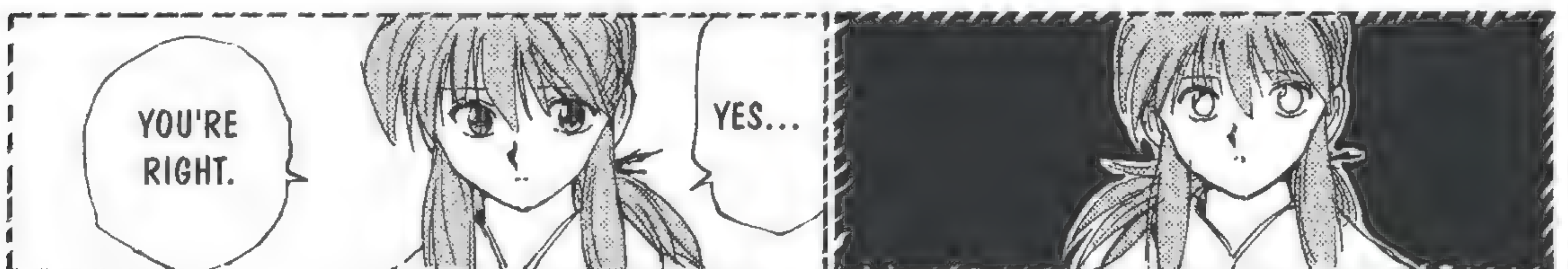
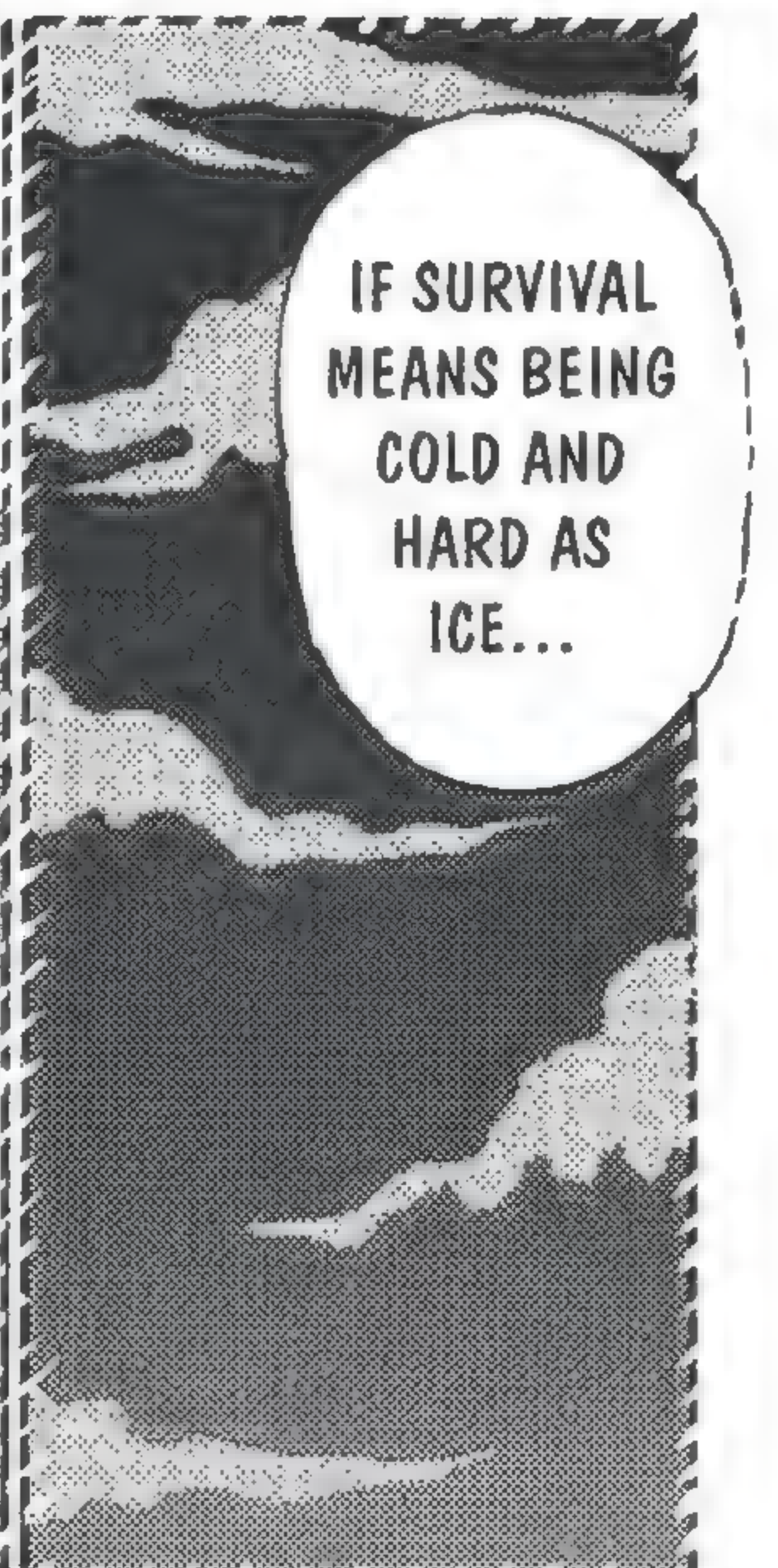
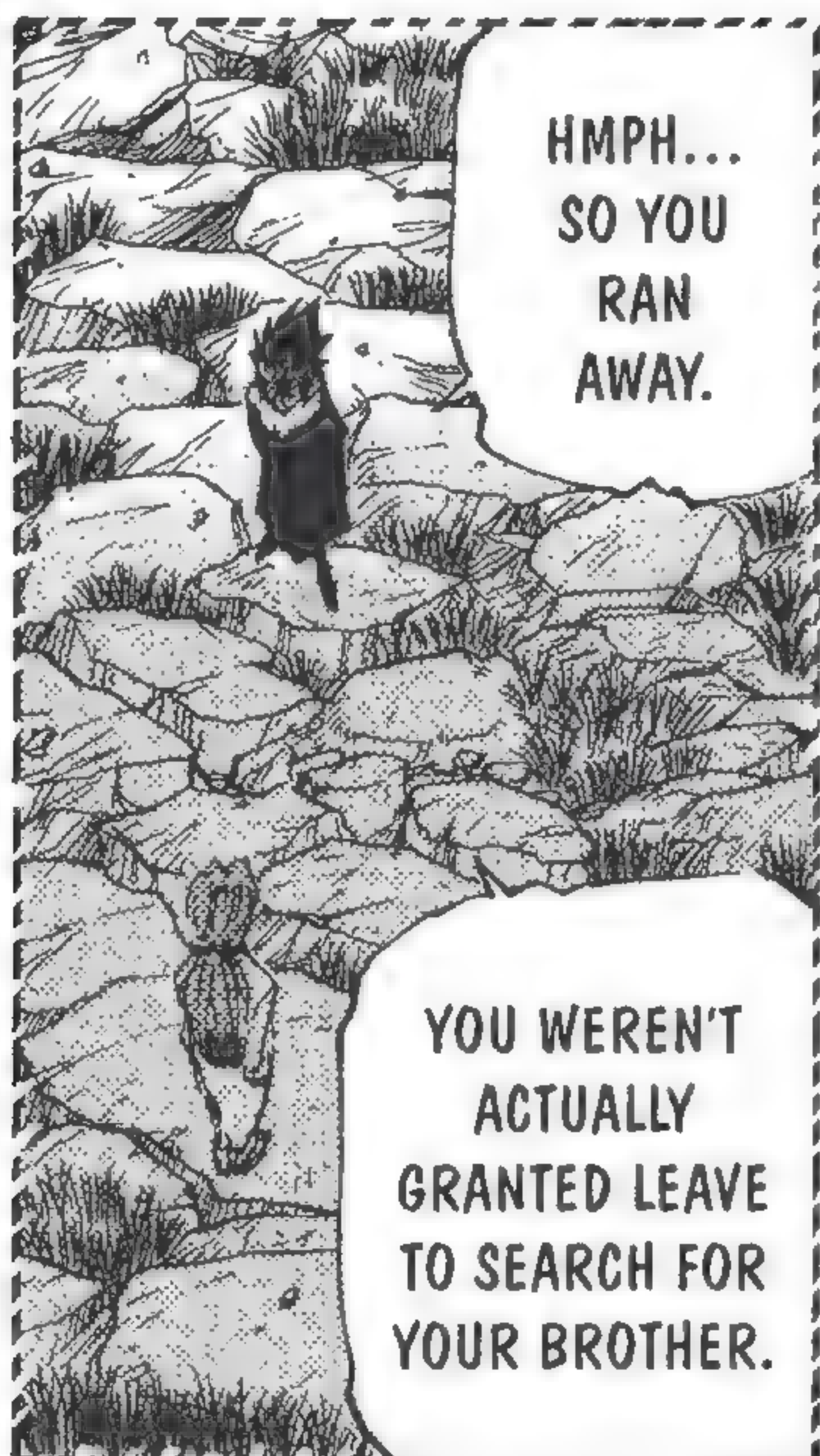
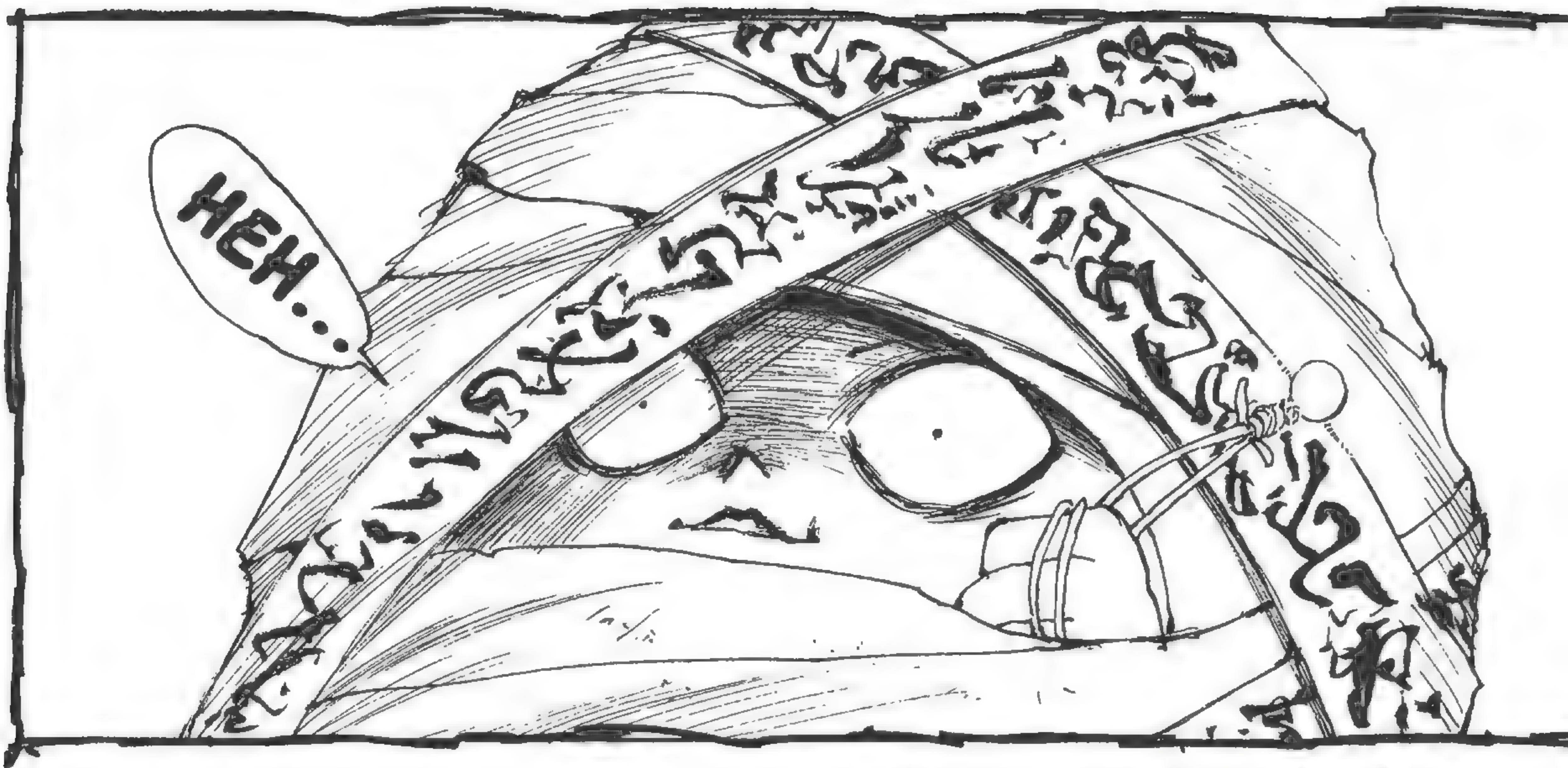
...HE WAS AWARE  
OF HIS SITUATION,  
AND WILL COME  
BACK ONE DAY TO  
TAKE REVENGE.



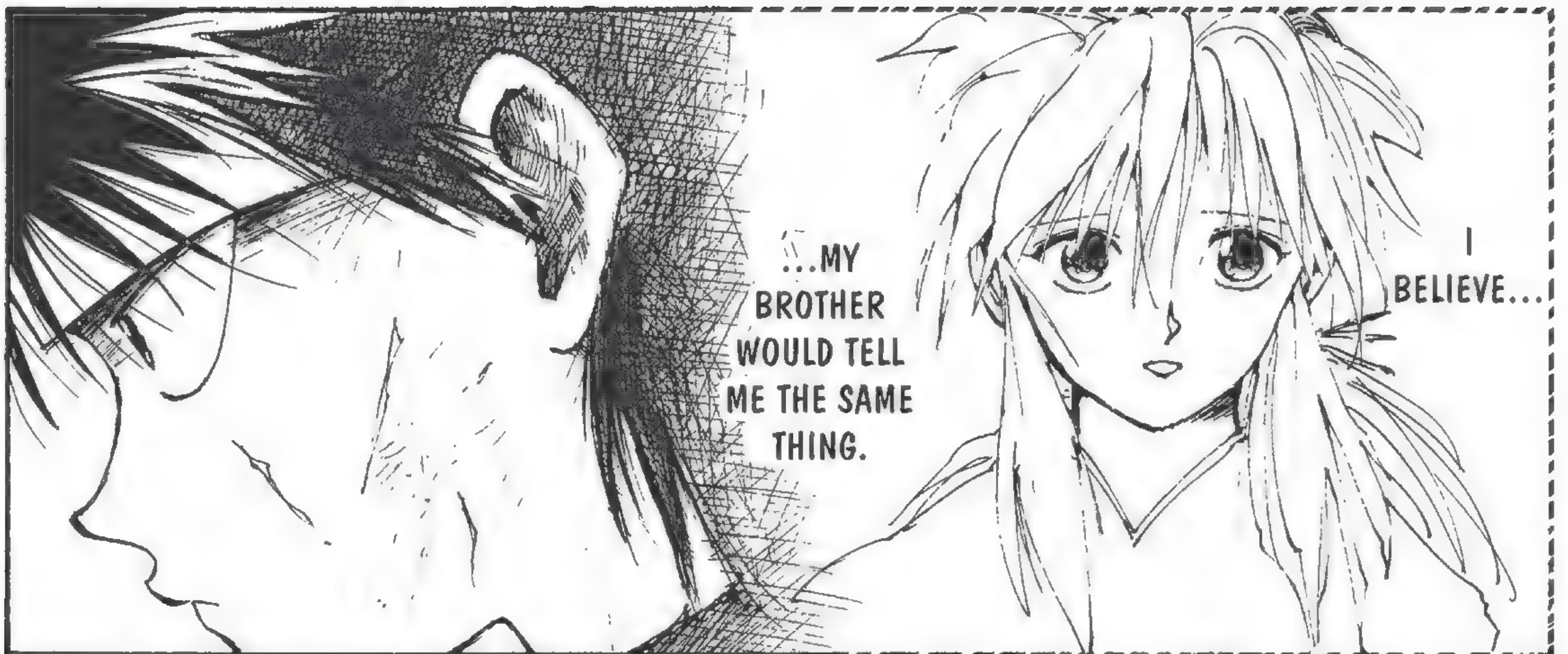
IT WILL  
BE MY  
ATONEMENT  
TO HINA.

WHEN  
YOU COME  
BACK...  
TAKE ME  
FIRST.

















WHEN DID  
YOU ENTER  
MUKURO'S  
EMPLOY?

SHIGURE,  
THE  
OSTEOPATH.



AFTER I  
TRANSPLANTED  
THE EVIL EYE  
INTO THEE.



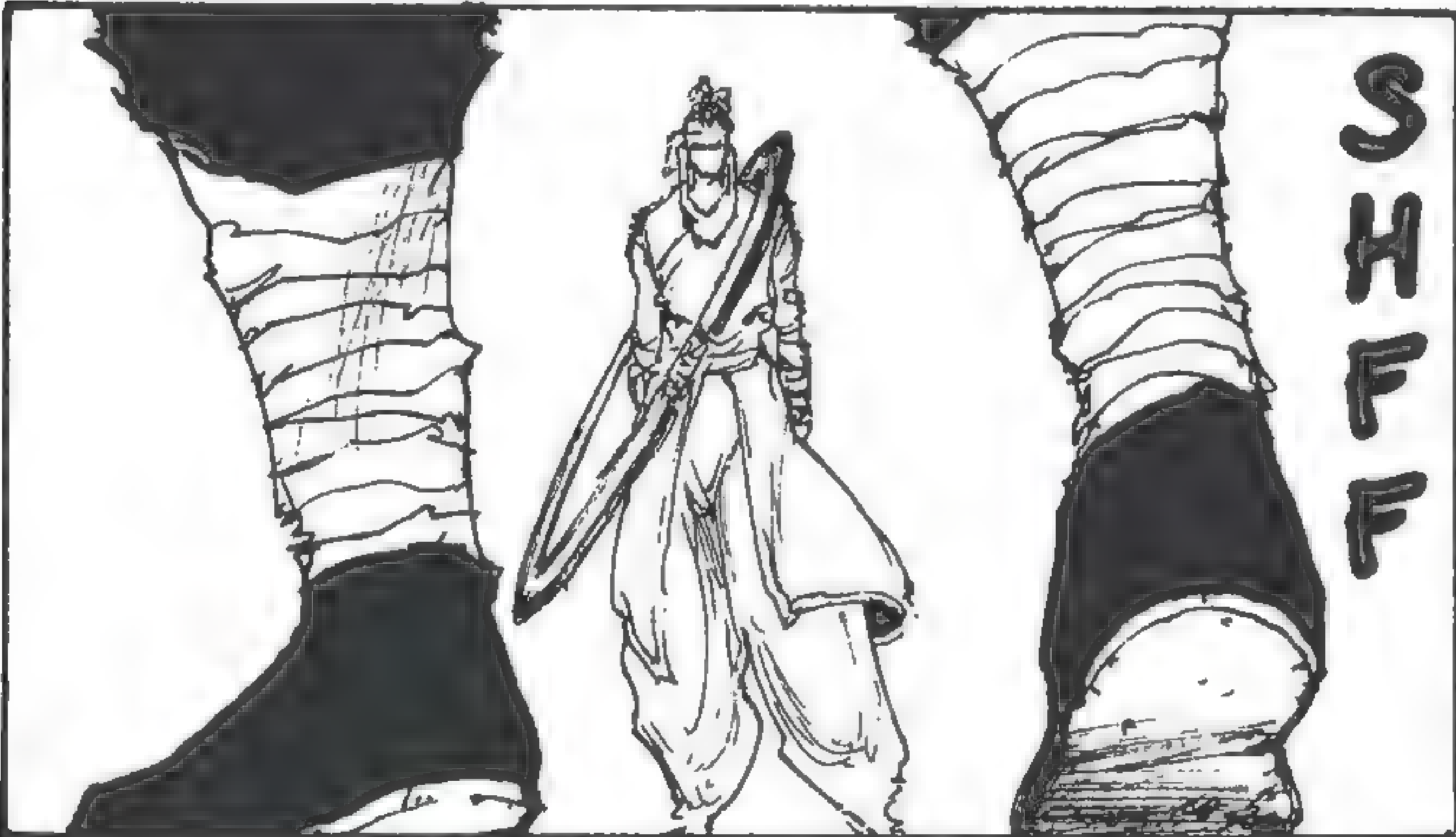
HE'S OBVIOUSLY  
COME A LONG  
WAY SINCE  
THEN...



ONLY AS A  
DOCTOR  
KNOWS A  
PATIENT.

YOU  
KNOW  
HIM?

I ALSO  
TAUGHT HIM A  
SMATTERING OF  
SWORDPLAY.



S  
H  
F  
F





I AM AMAZED  
AT HOW FAR  
THOU HAST  
COME...

...IN A  
FEW SHORT  
YEARS.



TRANSPLANTATION  
EQUATES TO ABILITY  
TRANSFORMATION,  
A VERITABLE  
"REBIRTH," WITH THE  
PATIENT'S AURA  
REVERTING TO THE  
INFANT LEVEL.

THOU WERE  
NO EXCEPTION.  
THY POWER DECLINED  
FROM THAT OF A  
CLASS-A DEMON TO  
NEARLY NOTHING.

ART THOU  
INDEED  
THE ONE I  
OPERATED  
ON?



...I'LL ALLOW  
THAT YOU DID  
CONTRIBUTE...  
IN A VERY  
SMALL WAY.

WELL...



THOU HAST  
FOUND THY  
TEAR OF ICE,  
I SEE.

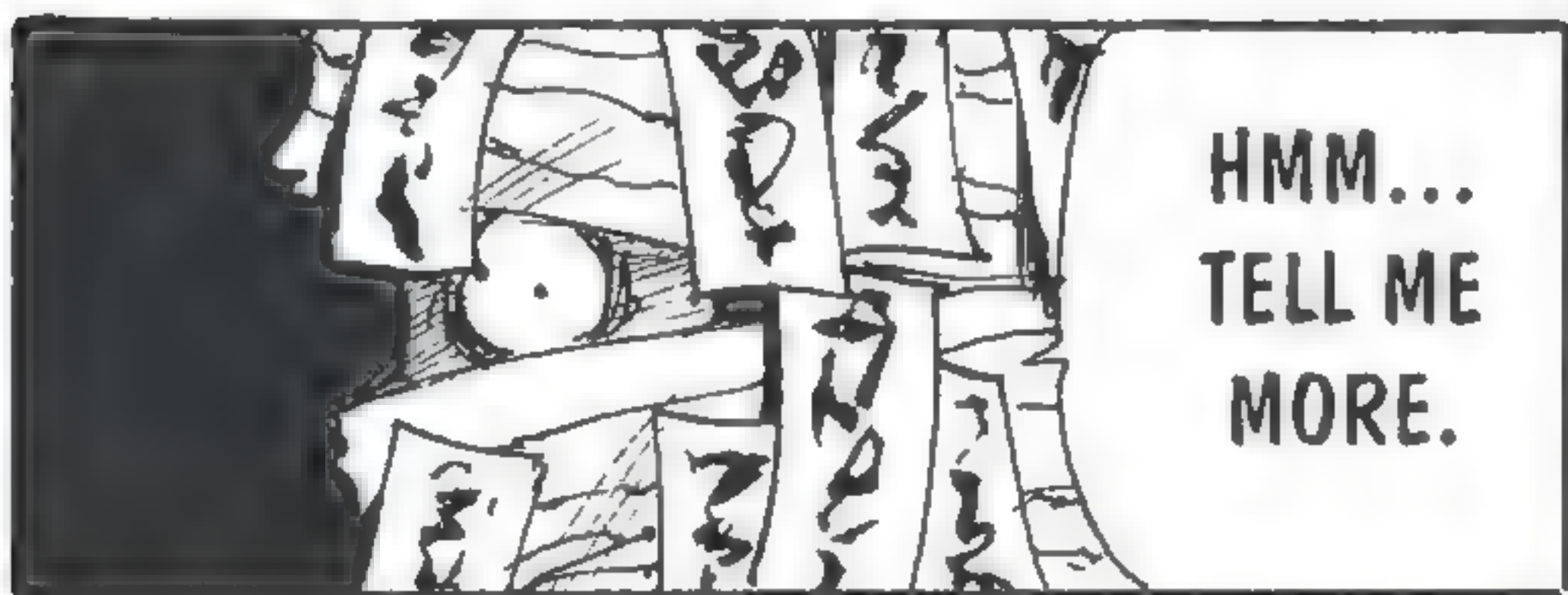






THOU HAST  
FOUND ONE  
THING THOU  
SOUGHT.

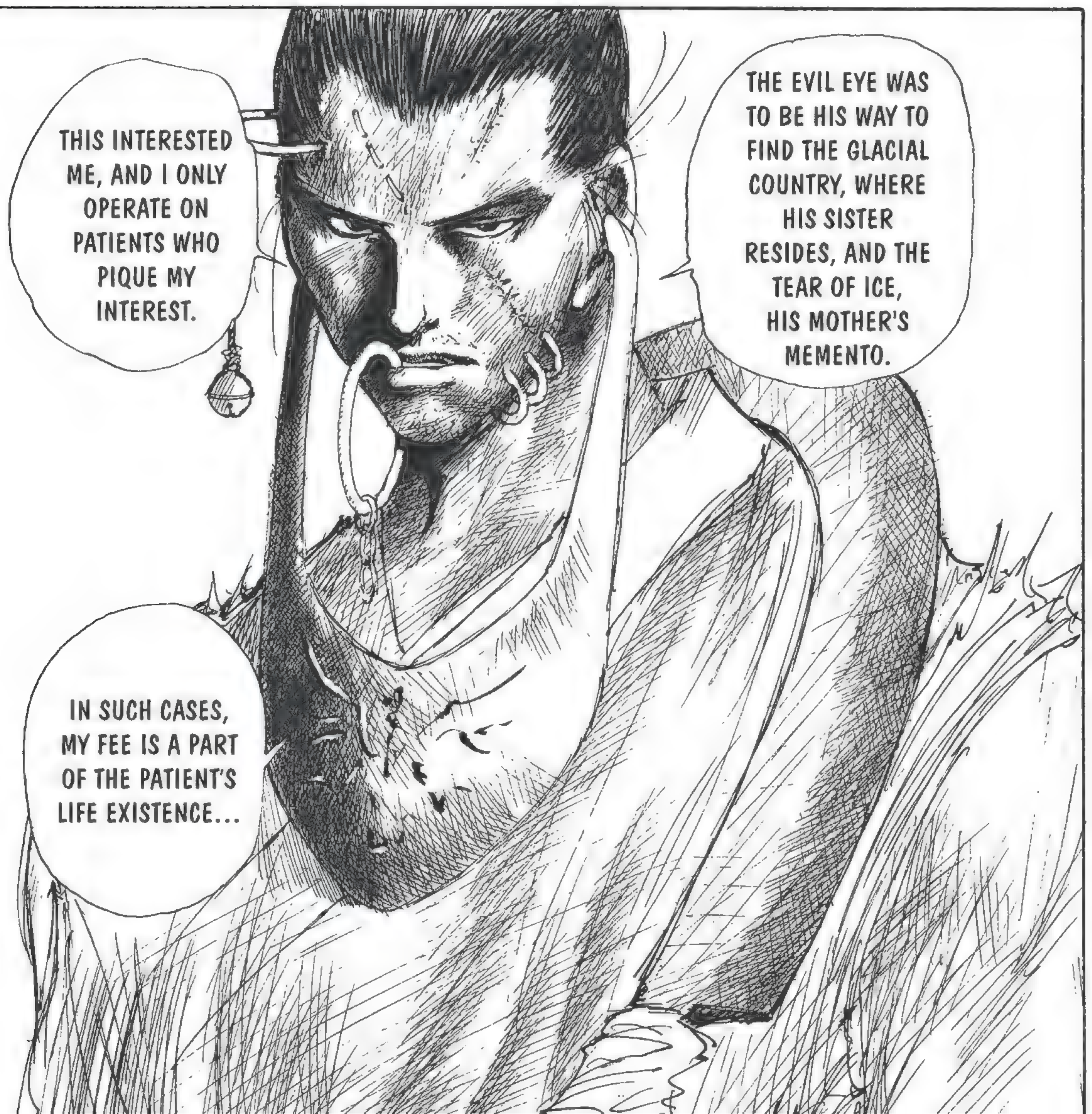
SO...THE  
SISTER'S,  
THEN.



HMM...  
TELL ME  
MORE.



IT'S NOT  
MINE.

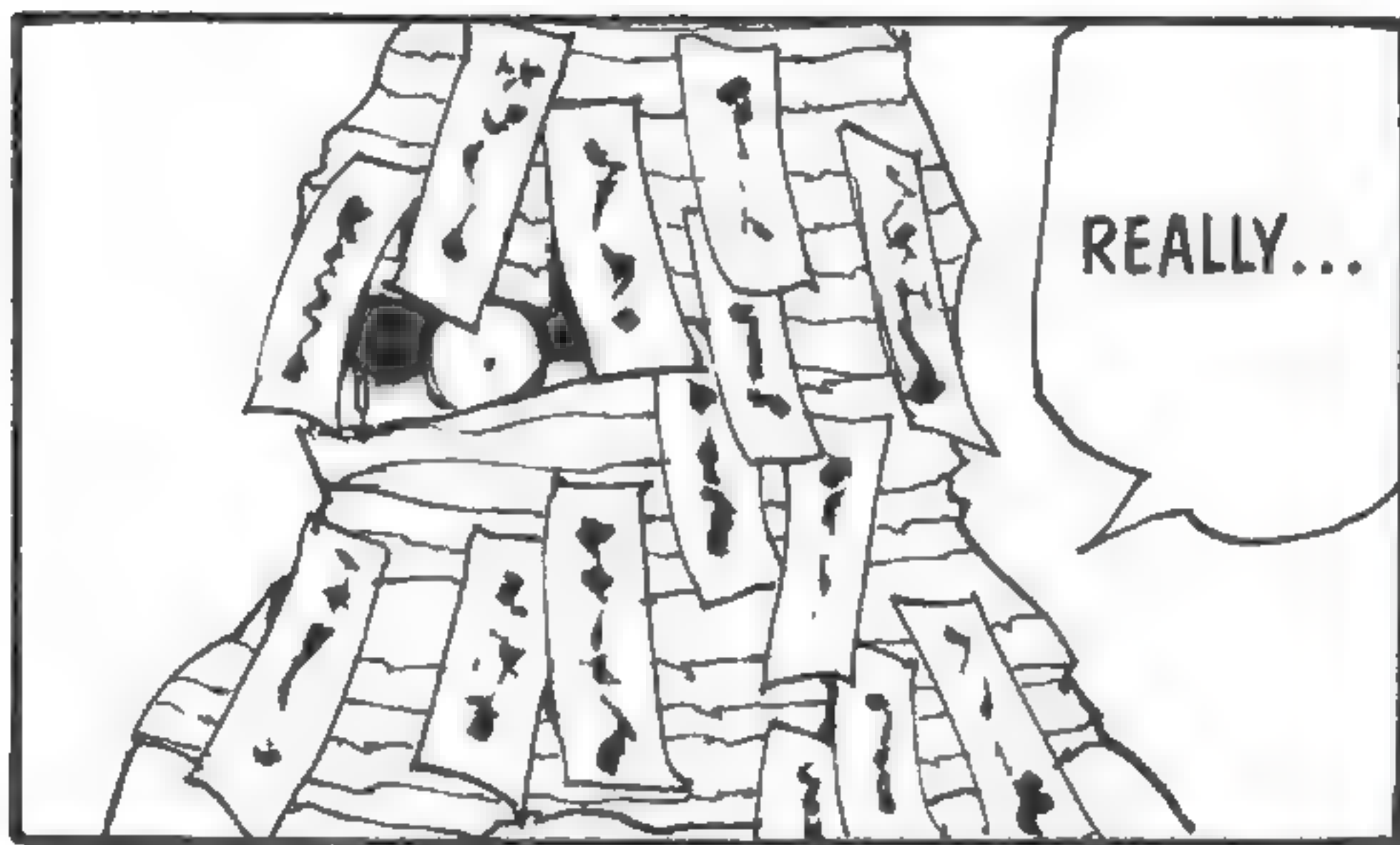


THIS INTERESTED  
ME, AND I ONLY  
OPERATE ON  
PATIENTS WHO  
PIQUE MY  
INTEREST.

THE EVIL EYE WAS  
TO BE HIS WAY TO  
FIND THE GLACIAL  
COUNTRY, WHERE  
HIS SISTER  
RESIDES, AND THE  
TEAR OF ICE,  
HIS MOTHER'S  
MEMENTO.

IN SUCH CASES,  
MY FEE IS A PART  
OF THE PATIENT'S  
LIFE EXISTENCE...

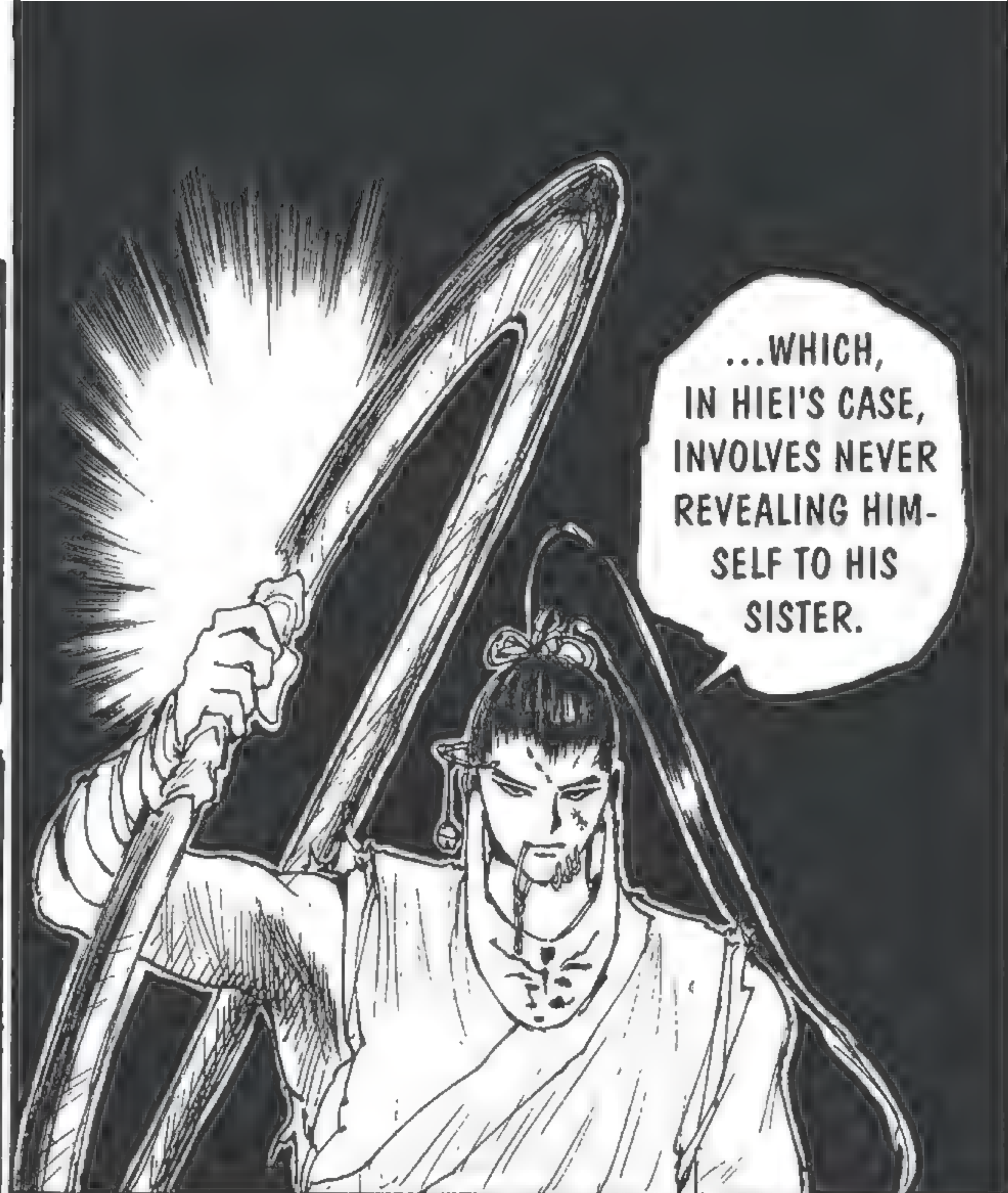




REALLY...



DEFEAT ME,  
AND I SHALL  
WAIVE THAT  
FEE.

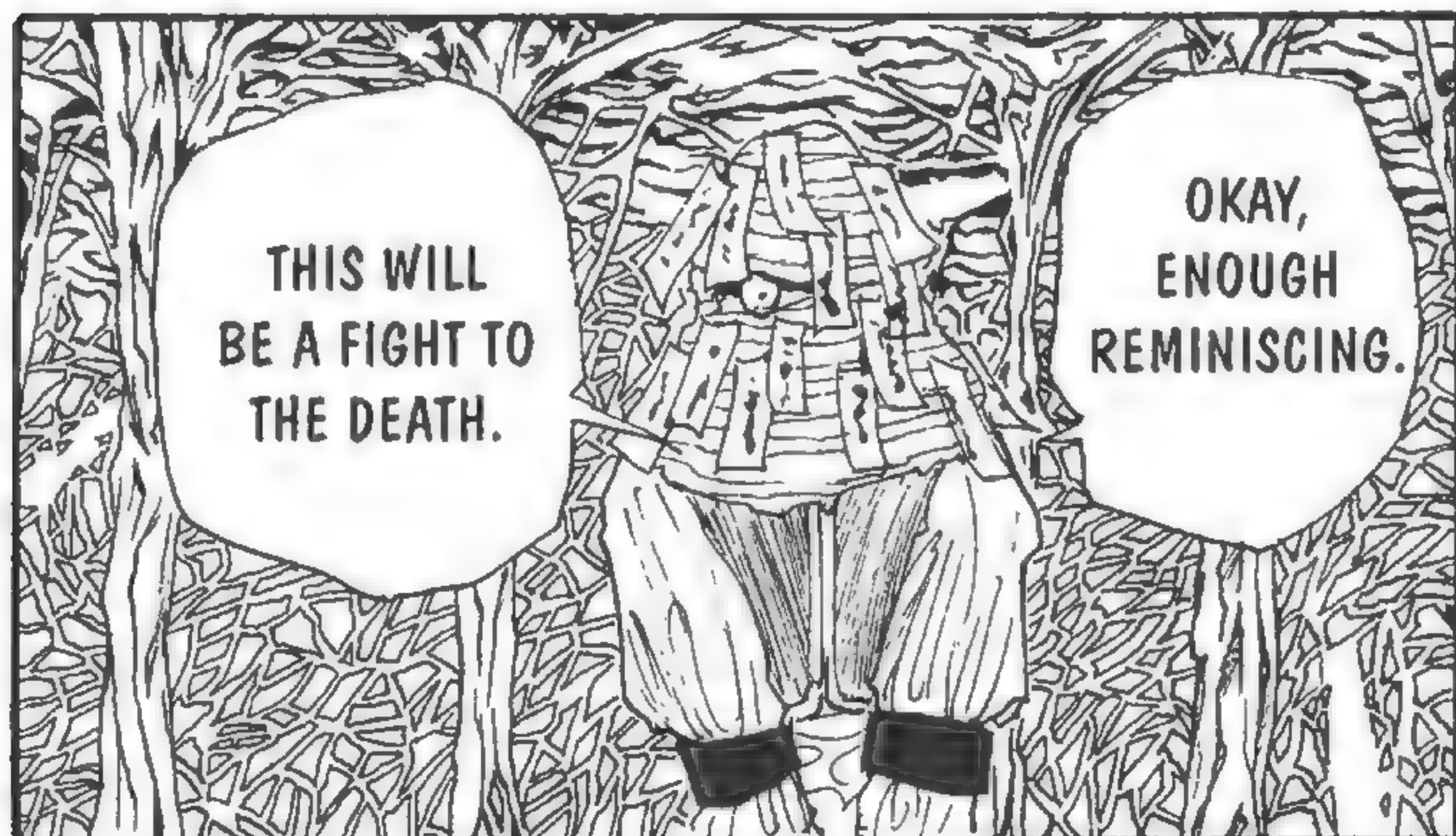


...WHICH,  
IN HIEI'S CASE,  
INVOLVES NEVER  
REVEALING HIM-  
SELF TO HIS  
SISTER.



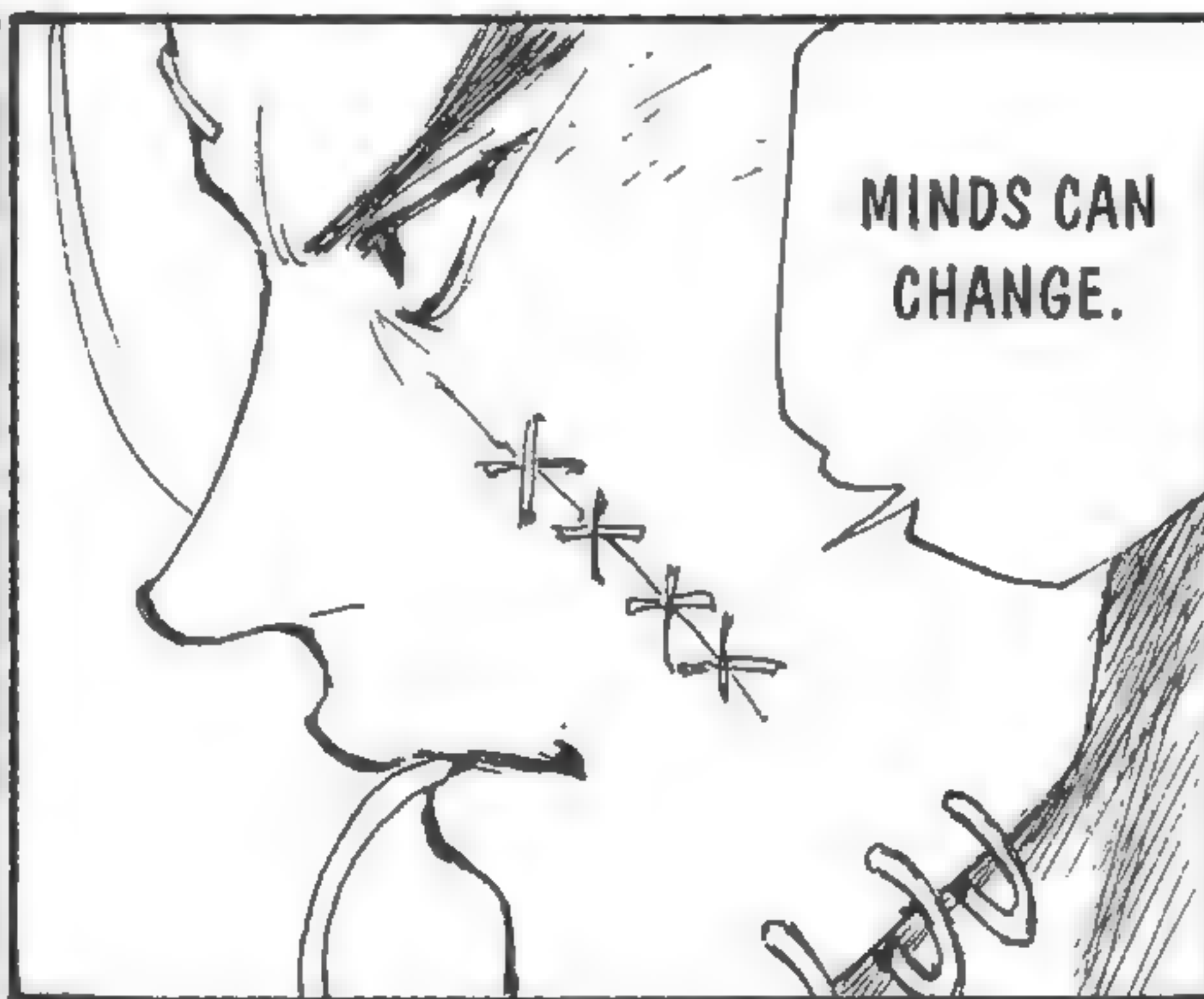
...I WILL NEVER  
REVEAL MYSELF  
TO HER.

I TOLD YOU  
BEFORE THE  
SURGERY...



THIS WILL  
BE A FIGHT TO  
THE DEATH.

OKAY,  
ENOUGH  
REMINISCING.



MINDS CAN  
CHANGE.



IN THE DECISIVE  
MOMENT,  
THE OPPOSING  
FORCES COLLIDE  
AND EXPLODE  
LIKE FIREWORKS.

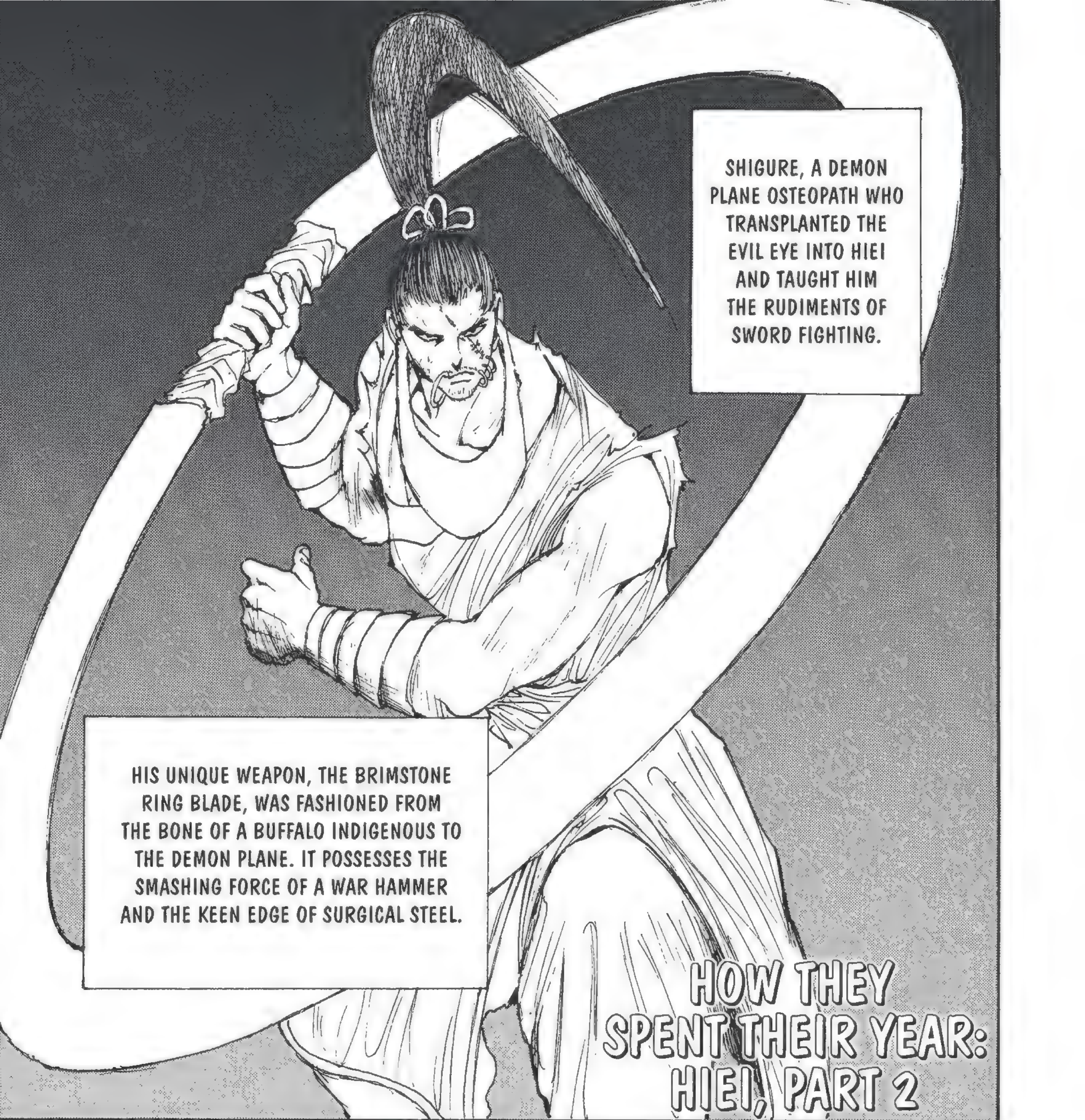
THERE'S NOTHING  
MORE FASCINATING  
THAN AN EARNEST  
DUEL.







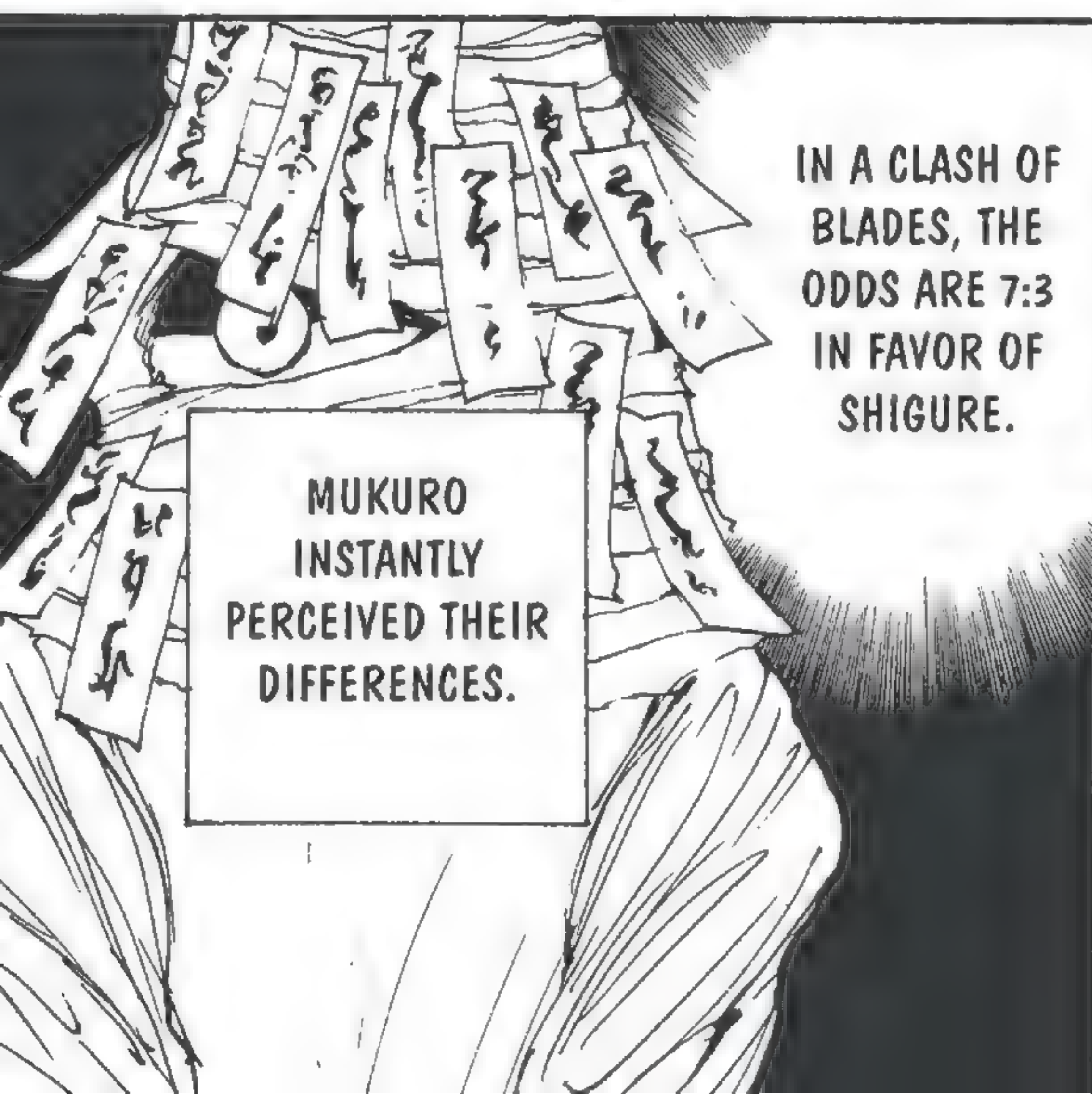




SHIGURE, A DEMON  
PLANE OSTEOPATH WHO  
TRANSPLANTED THE  
EVIL EYE INTO HIEI  
AND TAUGHT HIM  
THE RUDIMENTS OF  
SWORD FIGHTING.

HIS UNIQUE WEAPON, THE BRIMSTONE  
RING BLADE, WAS FASHIONED FROM  
THE BONE OF A BUFFALO INDIGENOUS TO  
THE DEMON PLANE. IT POSSESSES THE  
SMASHING FORCE OF A WAR HAMMER  
AND THE KEEN EDGE OF SURGICAL STEEL.

## HOW THEY SPENT THEIR YEAR: HIEI, PART 2



MUKURO  
INSTANTLY  
PERCEIVED THEIR  
DIFFERENCES.

IN A CLASH OF  
BLADES, THE  
ODDS ARE 7:3  
IN FAVOR OF  
SHIGURE.

FFFT





# HOW THEY SPENT THEIR YEAR:

## HIEI, PART 2



A PROLONGED  
BOUT WOULD  
NOT BE TO MY  
ADVANTAGE...

HIEI HAD A WEAPON  
OF FIRE THAT WOULD  
EVEN THE ODDS, BUT  
HE CHOSE TO STICK  
WITH HIS SWORD.



...AND LIFE OR  
DEATH NO LONGER  
MATTERED. HE COULD  
BE PARTICULAR ABOUT  
THE WAY HE WON.

ONCE, HE HAD A GOAL  
TO LIVE FOR AND DID  
WHATEVER IT TOOK TO  
WIN. THAT GOAL NO  
LONGER FIGURED...

THE STANDOFF  
LASTED BUT AN  
INSTANT.



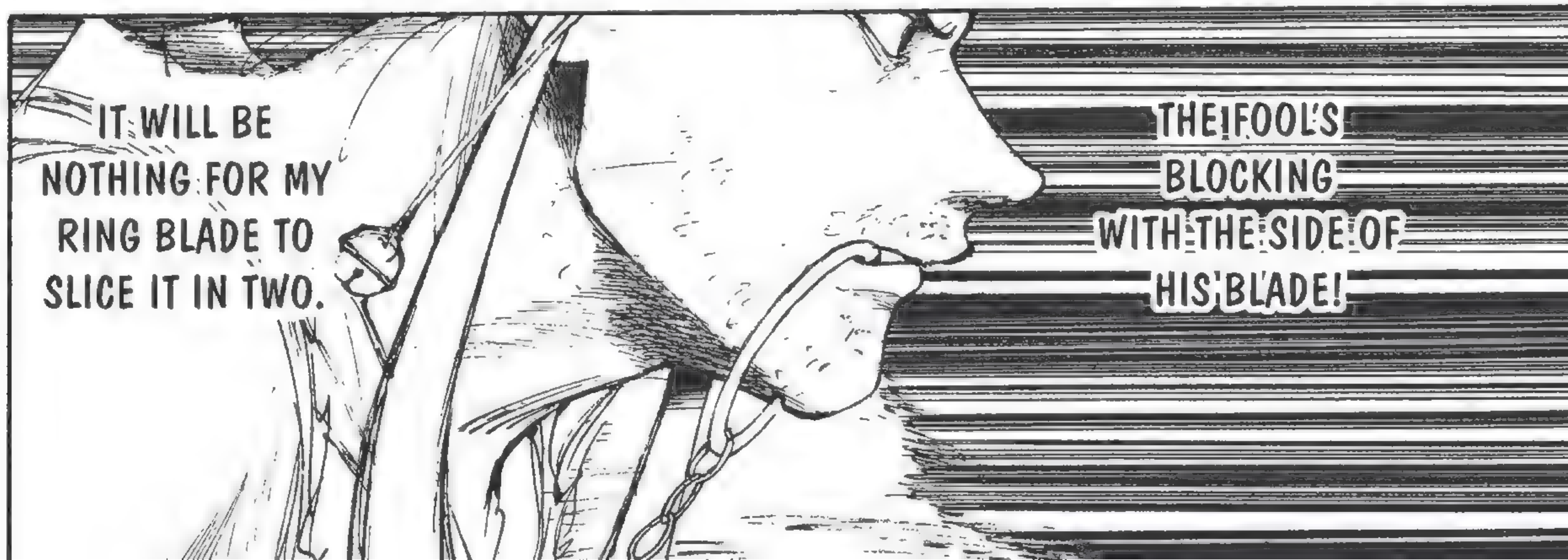
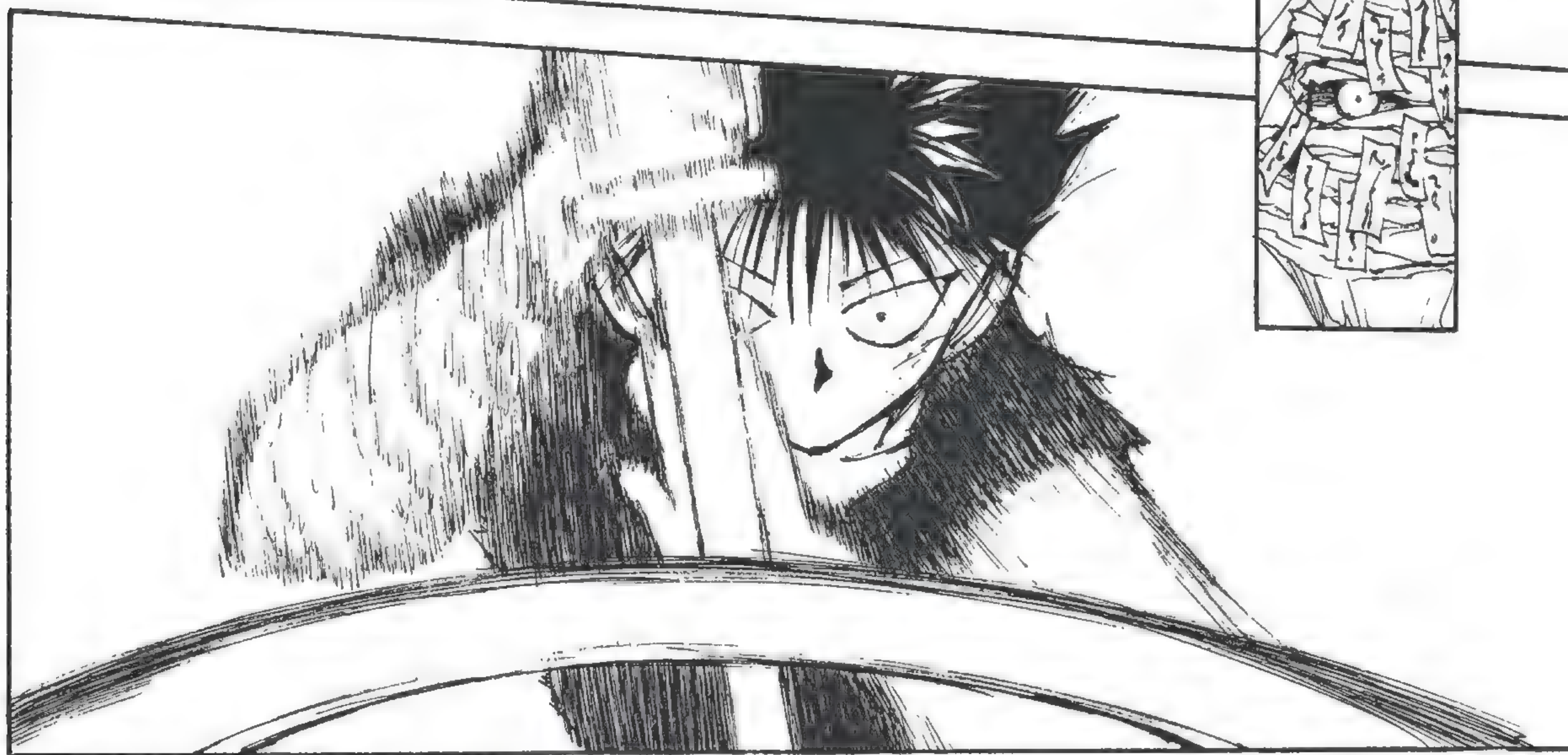
THE BATTLE,  
AS WELL...







HE'S  
FAST!



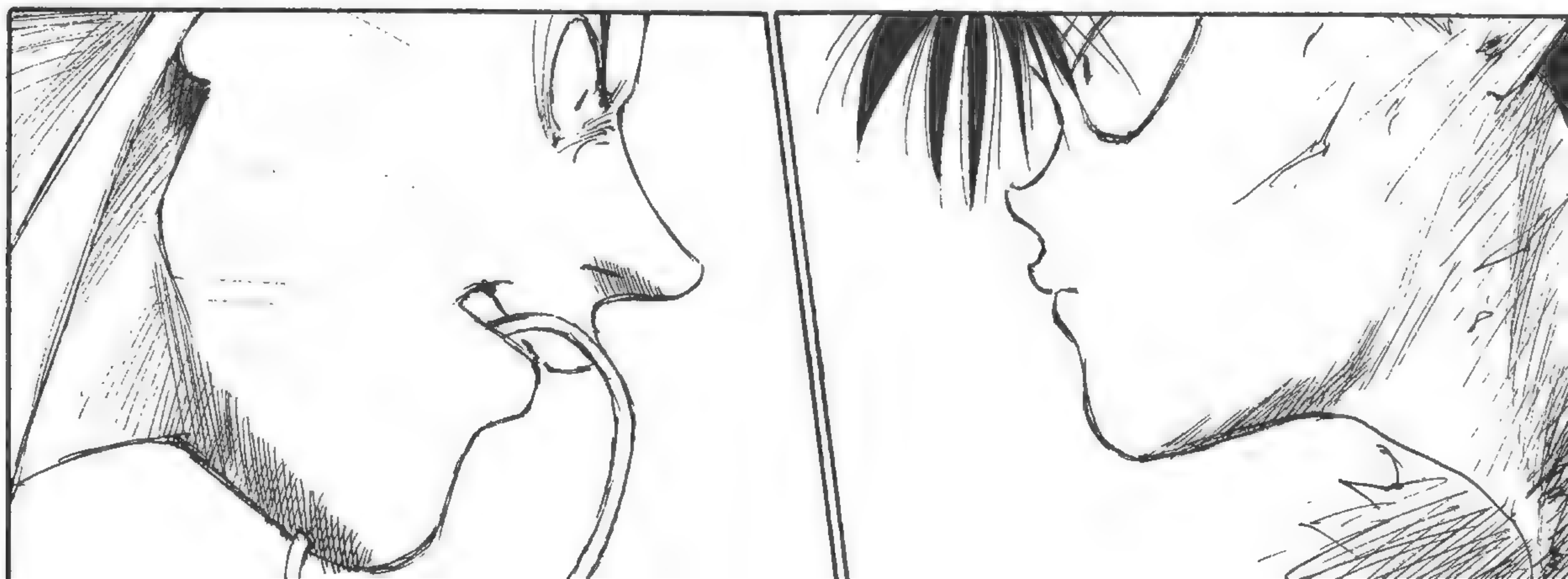
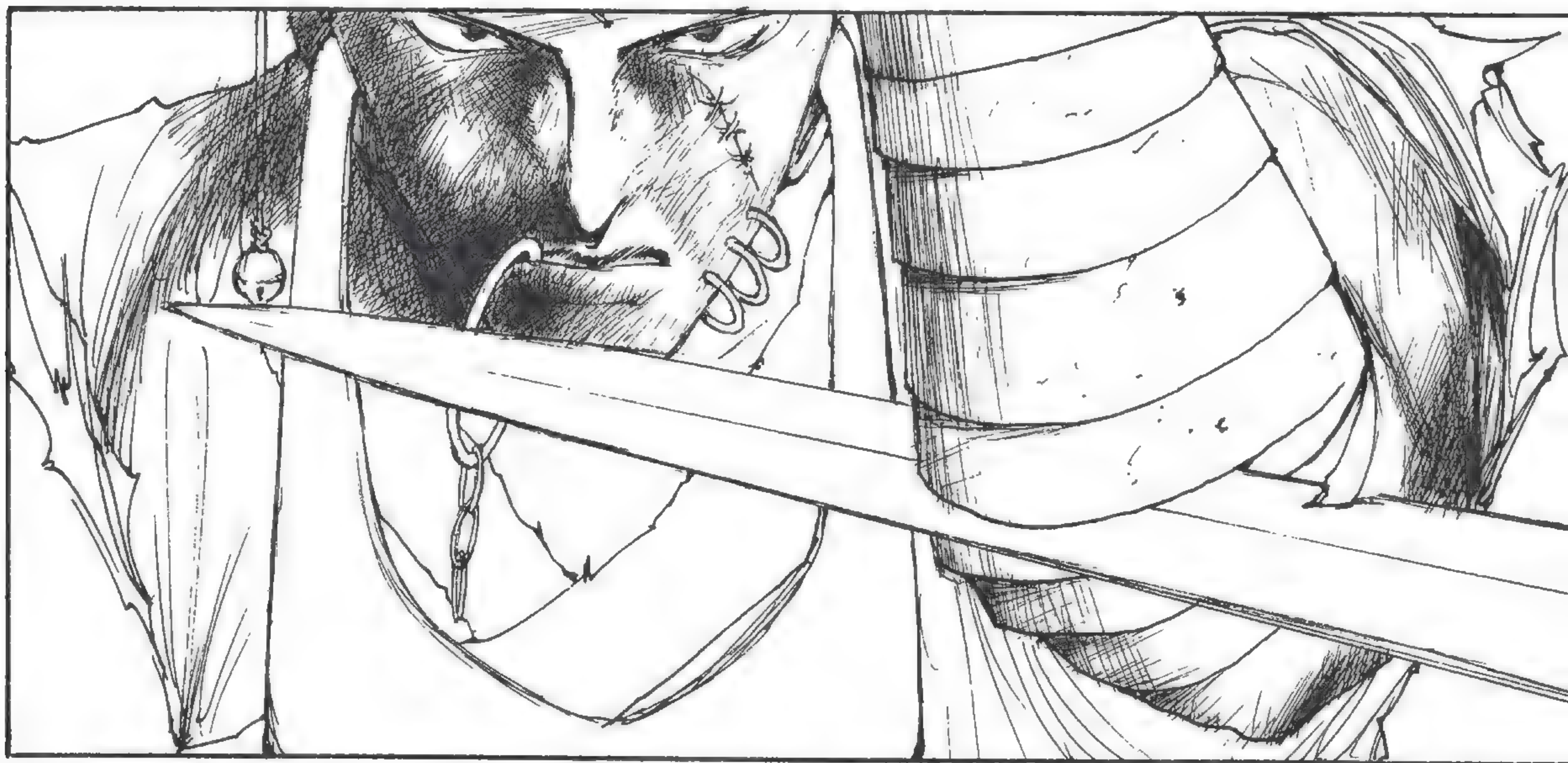
IT WILL BE  
NOTHING FOR MY  
RING BLADE TO  
SLICE IT IN TWO.

THE FOOL'S  
BLOCKING  
WITH THE SIDE OF  
HIS BLADE!





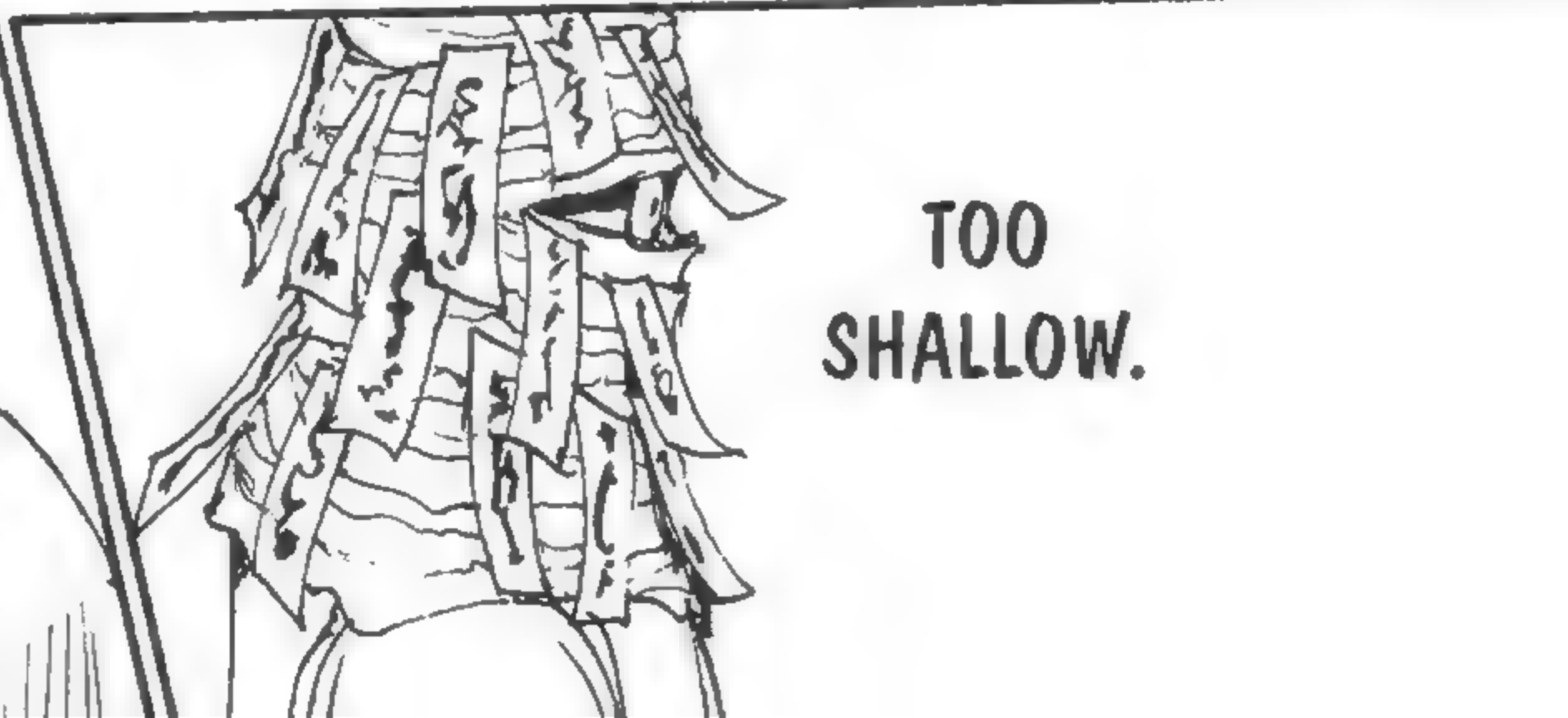
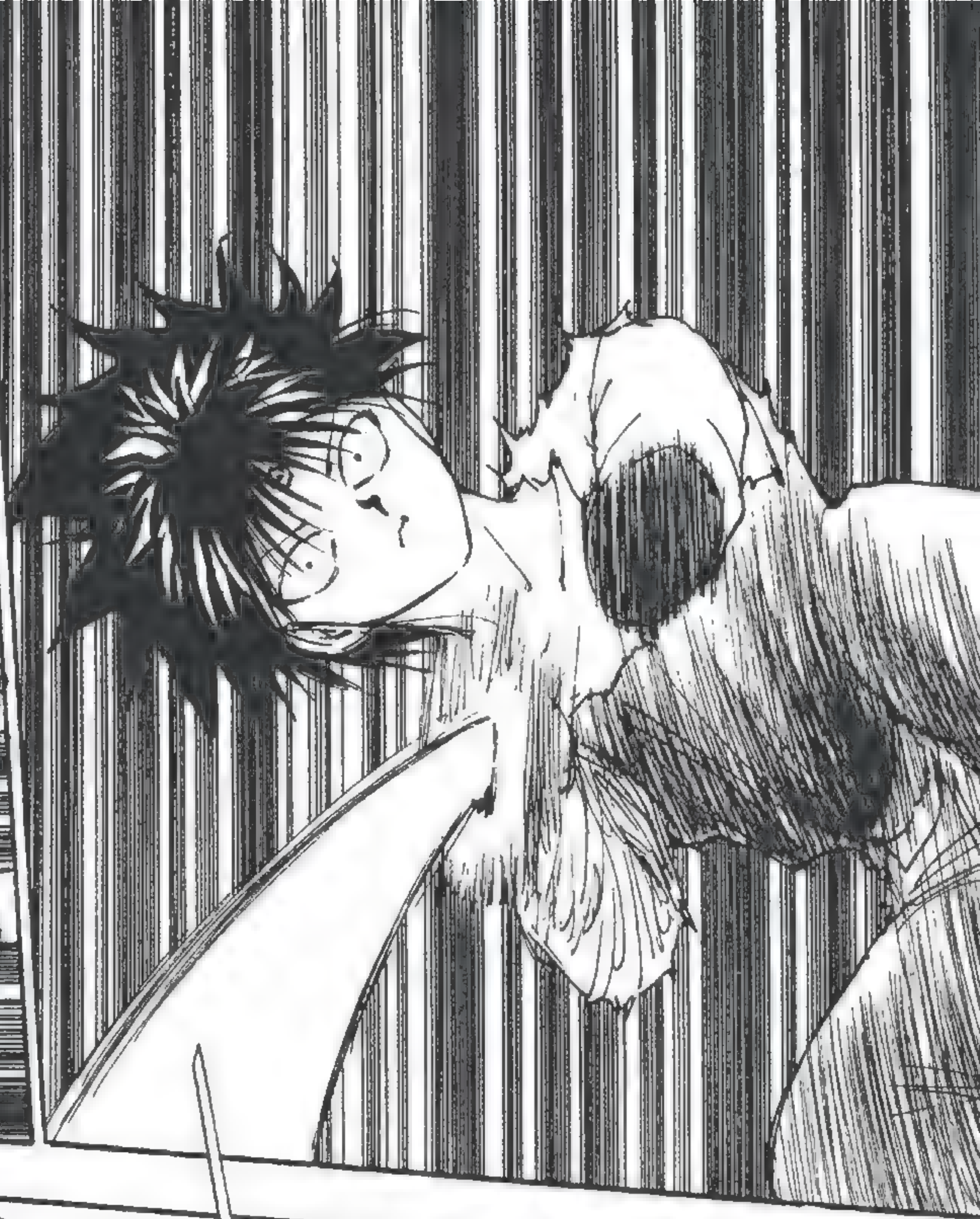












I  
WIN!!

TOO  
SHALLOW.





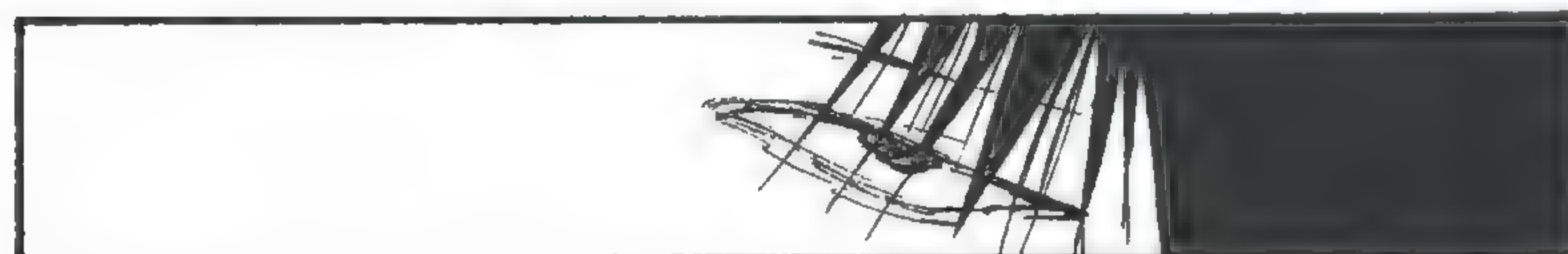
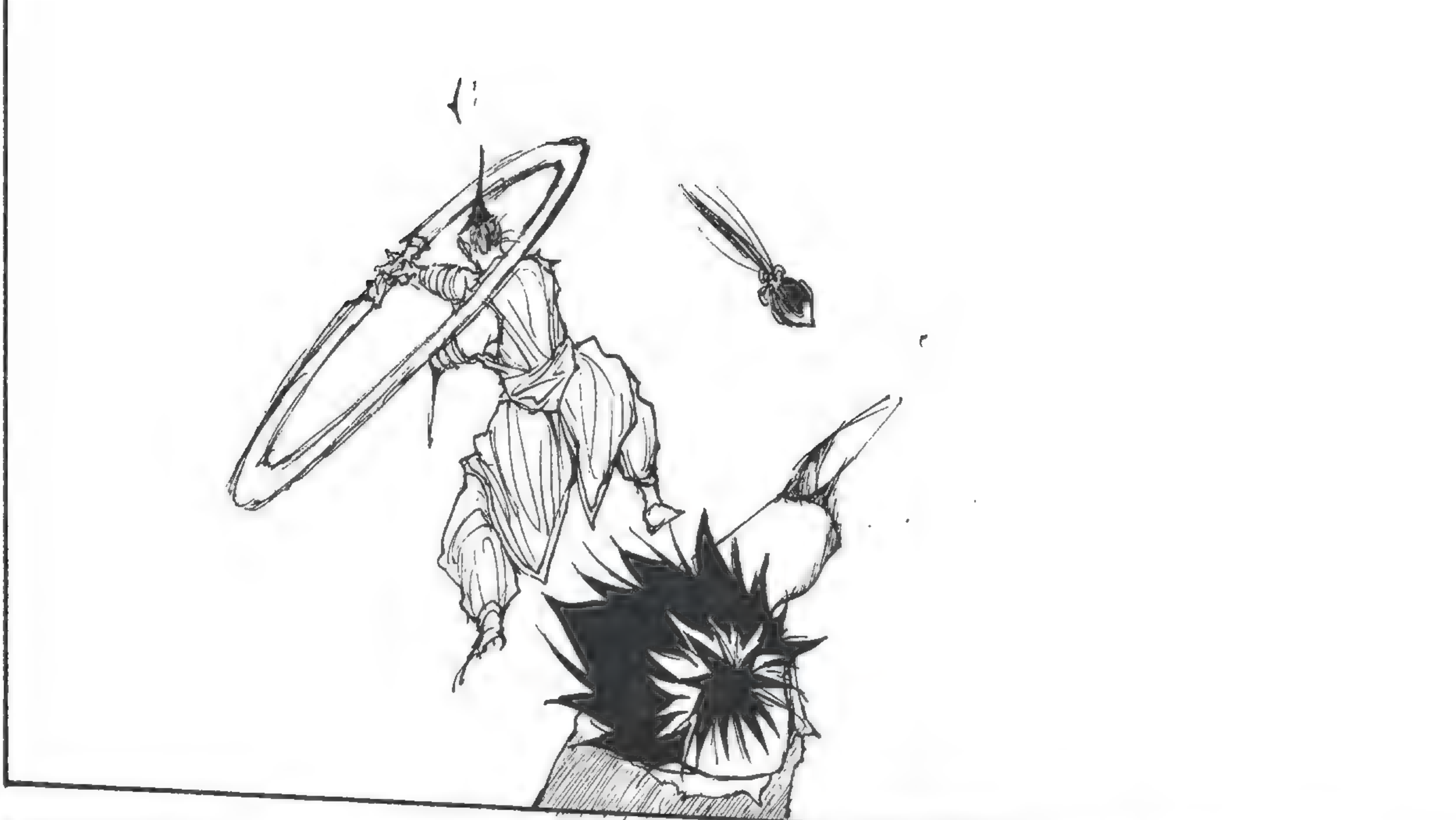
















THIS IS  
YOUR  
TEAR OF  
ICE.

...A  
PERFORMANCE  
LIKE THAT  
DESERVES A  
REWARD.

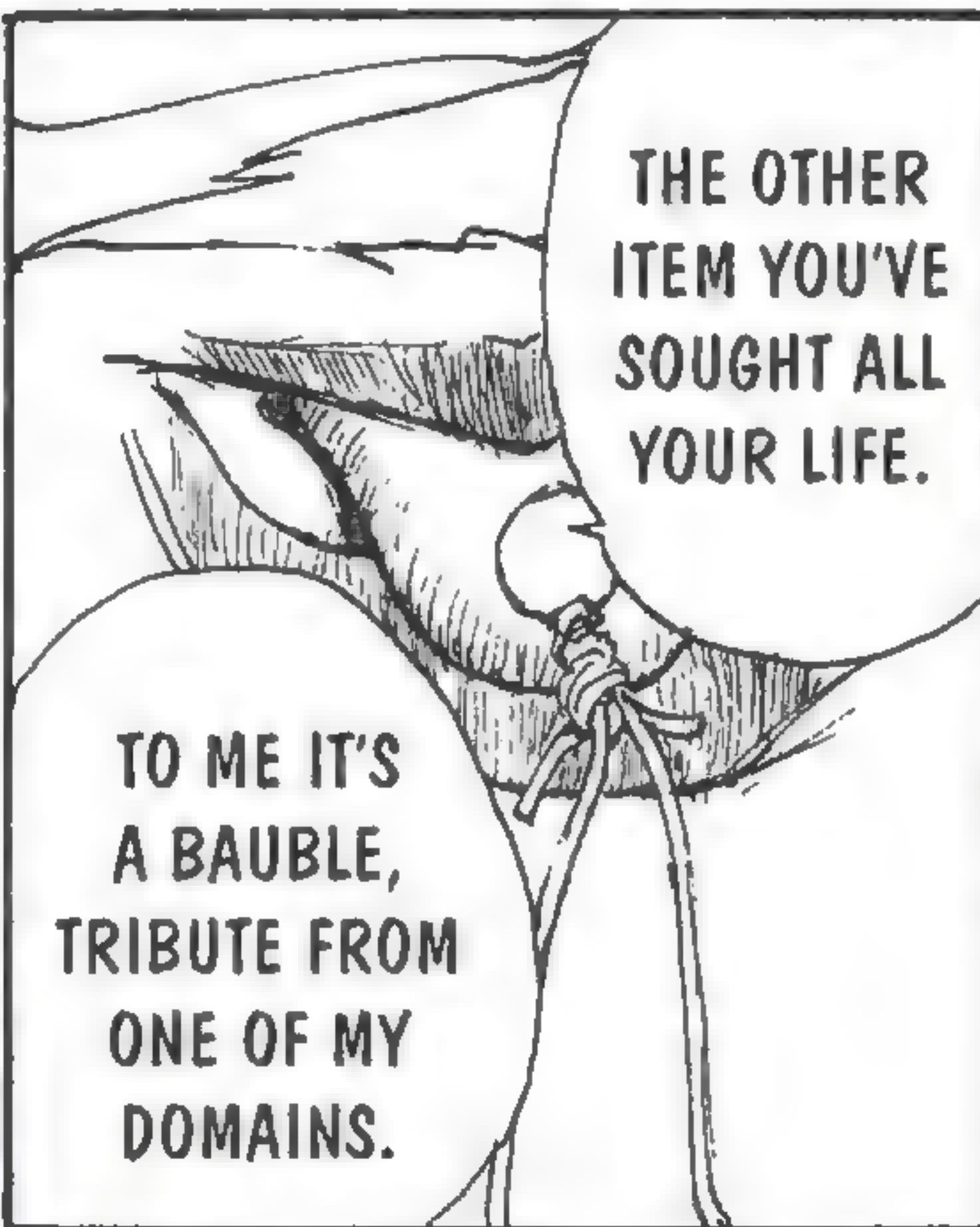


UGH...



ICK...  
KEEP IT...

IT WAS...  
IN YOUR  
STOMACH?



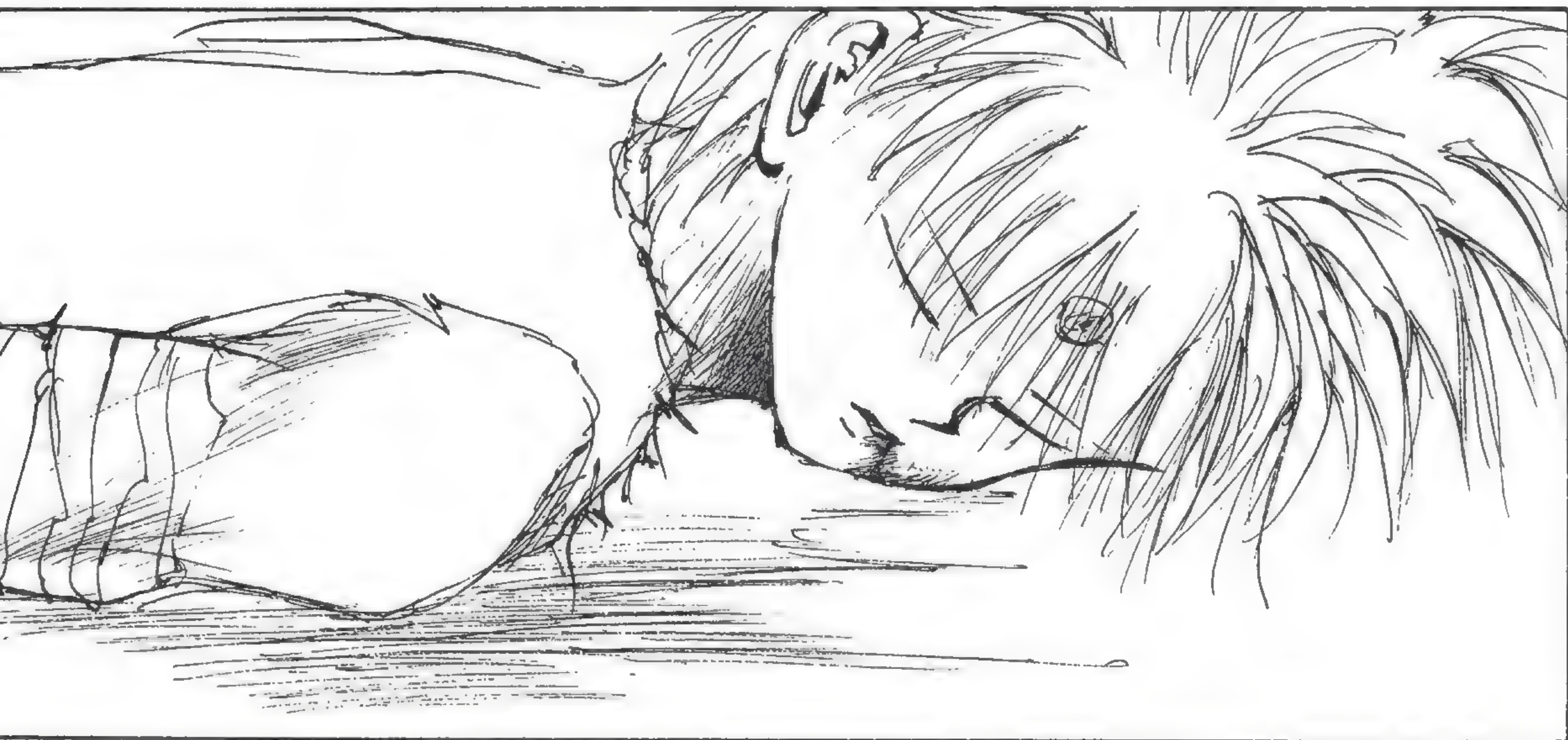
THE OTHER  
ITEM YOU'VE  
SOUGHT ALL  
YOUR LIFE.

TO ME IT'S  
A BAUBLE,  
TRIBUTE FROM  
ONE OF MY  
DOMAINS.

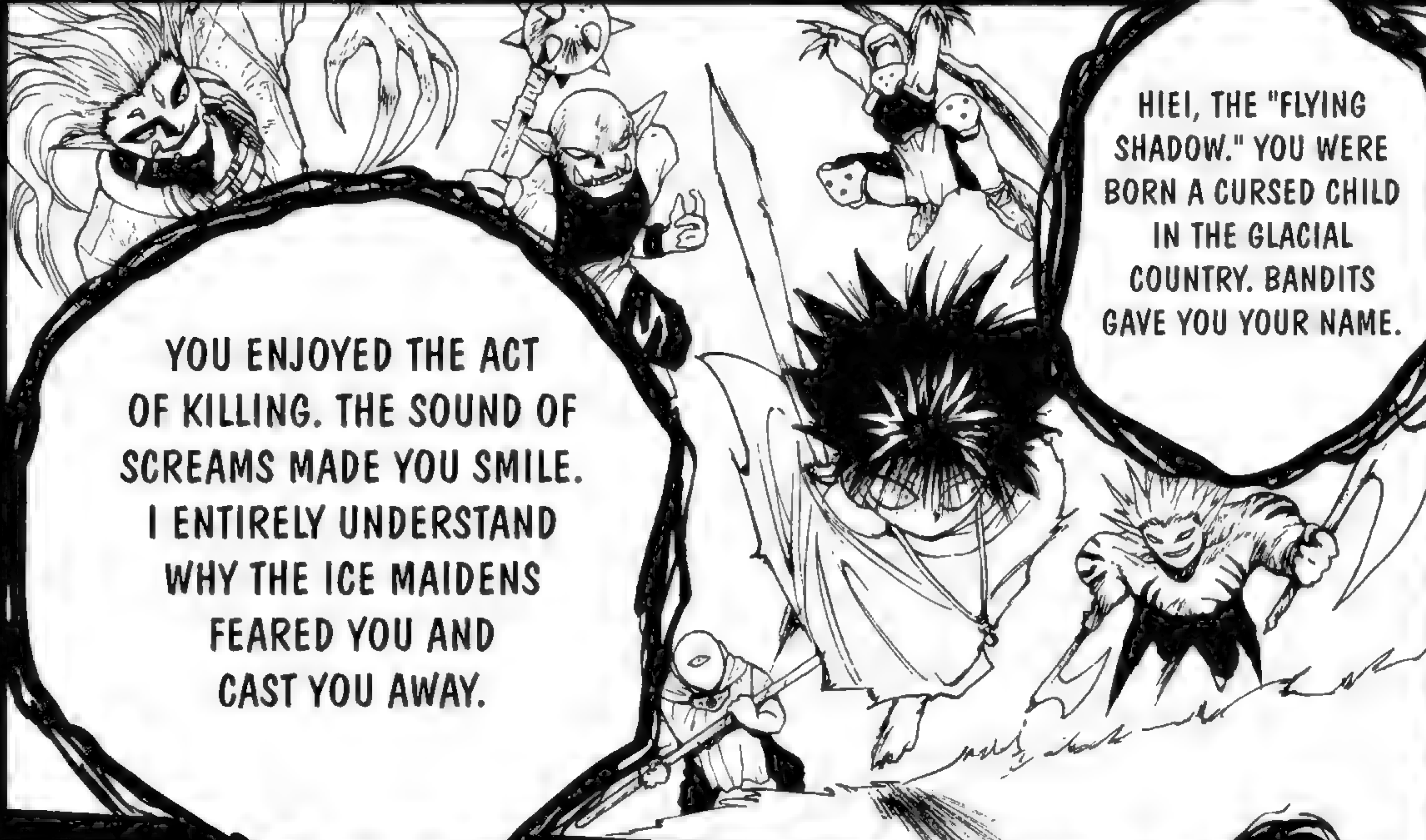


SHHHH

SHHHH

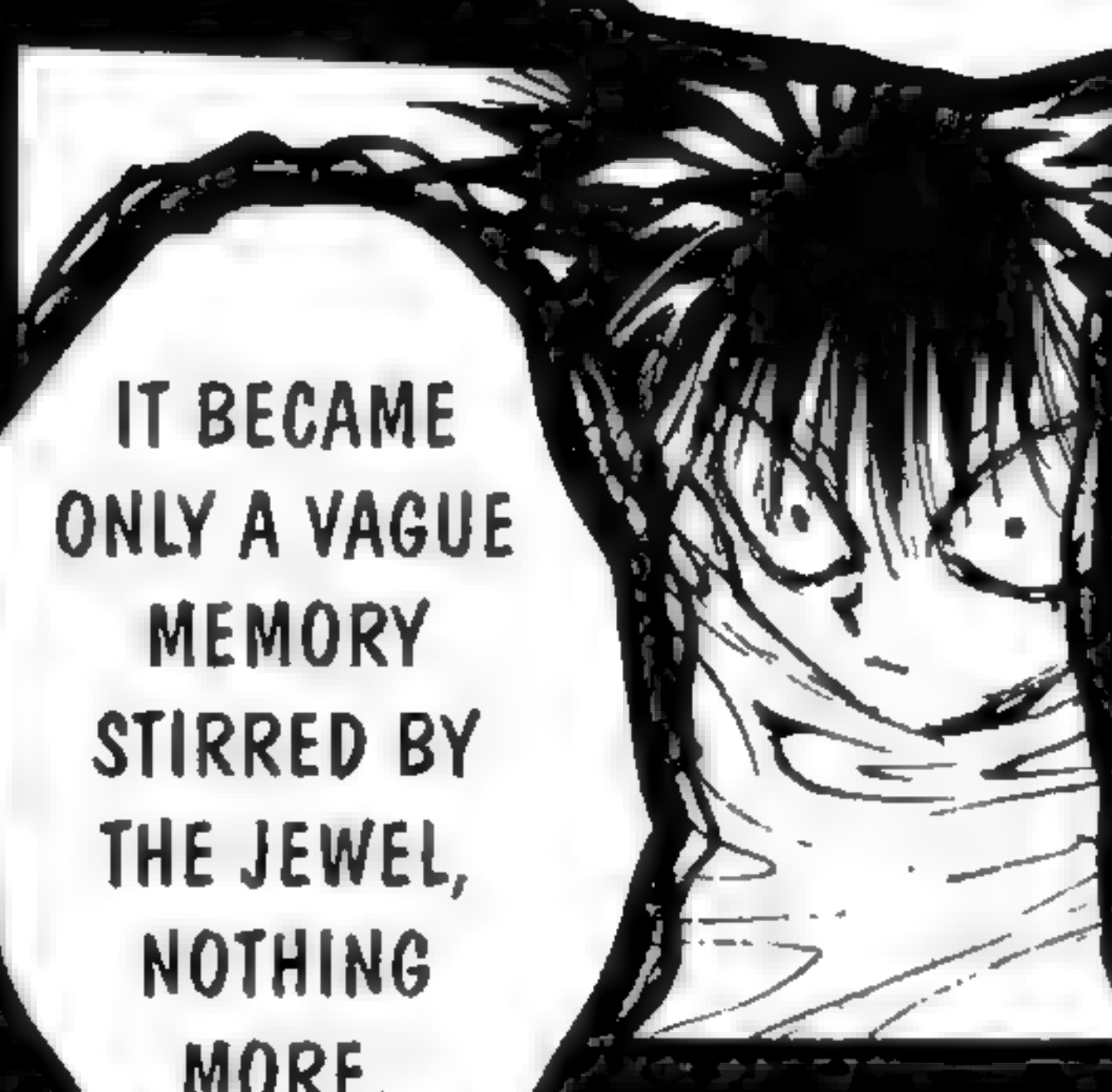




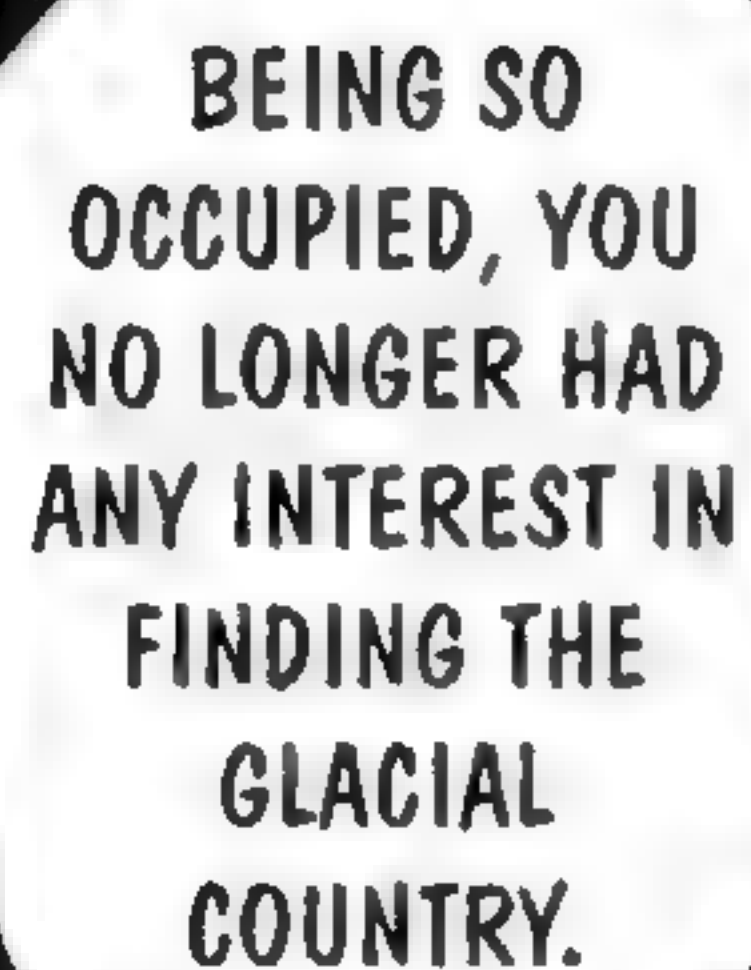


YOU ENJOYED THE ACT  
OF KILLING. THE SOUND OF  
SCREAMS MADE YOU SMILE.  
I ENTIRELY UNDERSTAND  
WHY THE ICE MAIDENS  
FEARED YOU AND  
CAST YOU AWAY.

HIEI, THE "FLYING  
SHADOW." YOU WERE  
BORN A CURSED CHILD  
IN THE GLACIAL  
COUNTRY. BANDITS  
GAVE YOU YOUR NAME.



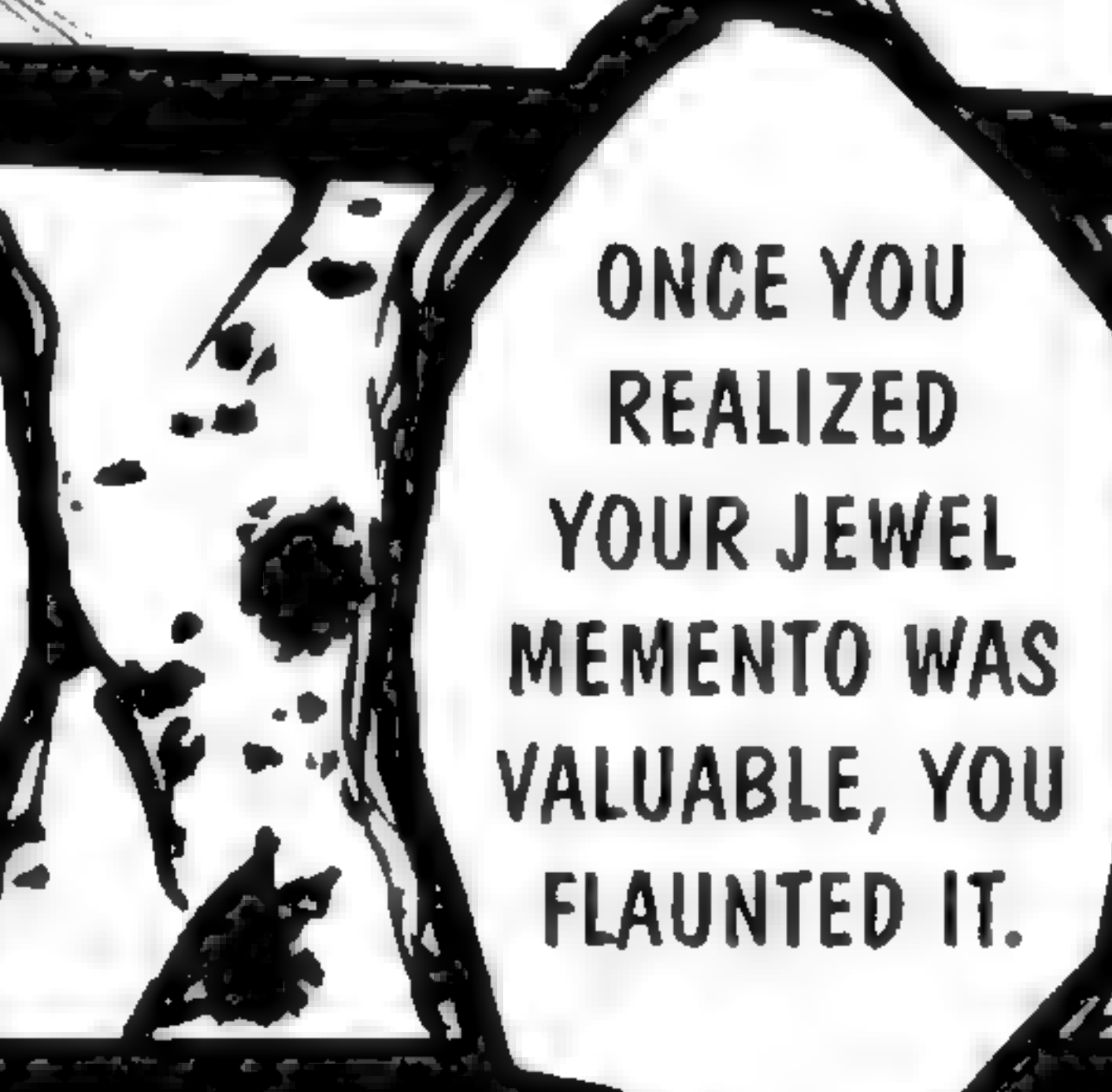
IT BECAME  
ONLY A VAGUE  
MEMORY  
STIRRED BY  
THE JEWEL,  
NOTHING  
MORE.



BEING SO  
OCCUPIED, YOU  
NO LONGER HAD  
ANY INTEREST IN  
FINDING THE  
GLACIAL  
COUNTRY.



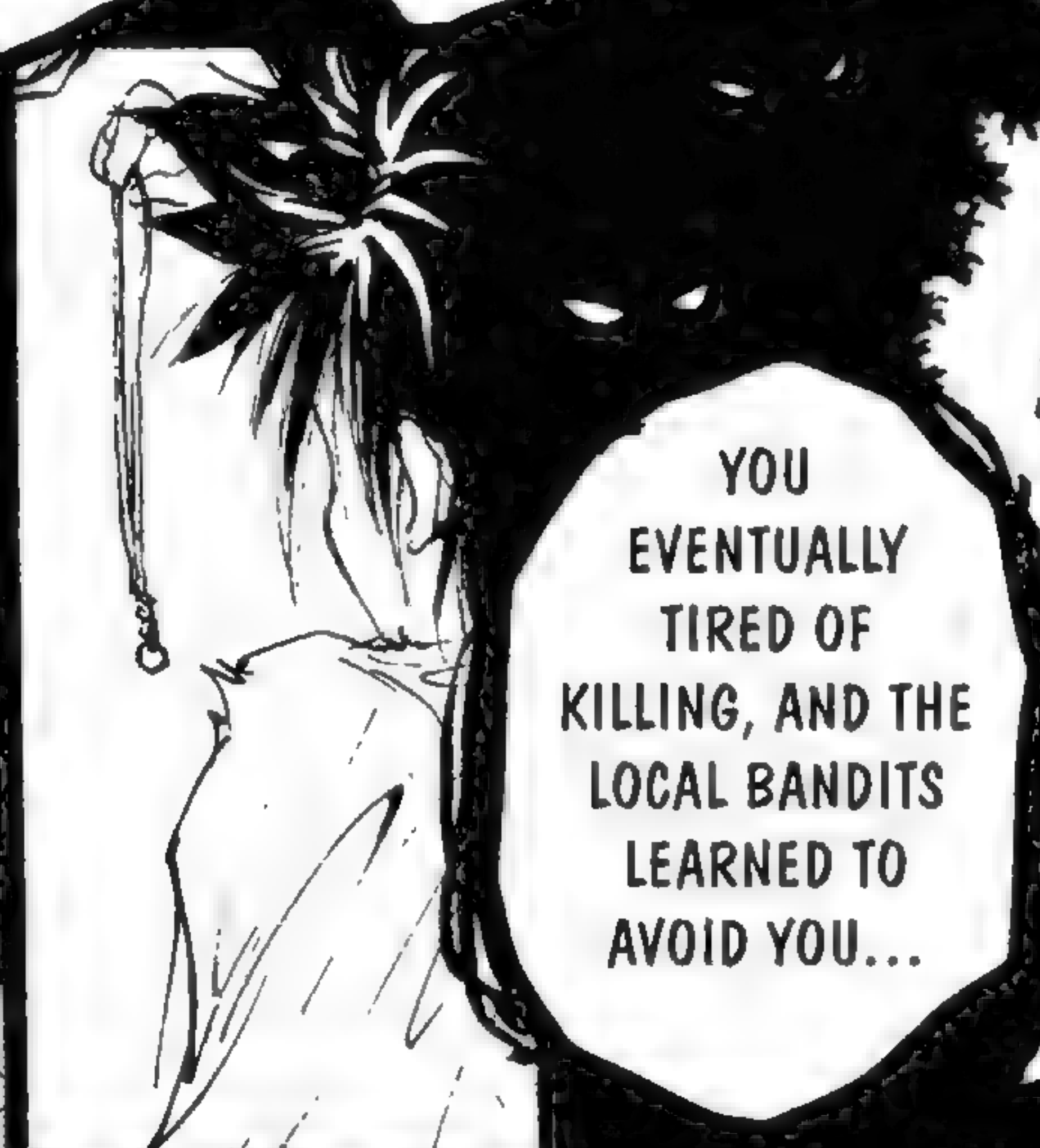
SO YOU  
NEVER  
WANTED FOR  
THE THINGS  
THAT  
PLEASED  
YOU.



ONCE YOU  
REALIZED  
YOUR JEWEL  
MEMENTO WAS  
VALUABLE, YOU  
FLAUNTED IT.




...SO YOU  
SPENT  
MORE TIME  
GAZING AT  
THE JEWEL.



YOU  
EVENTUALLY  
TIRED OF  
KILLING, AND THE  
LOCAL BANDITS  
LEARNED TO  
AVOID YOU...




...THAT  
DOING SO  
MADE YOU  
FEEL AT  
PEACE.

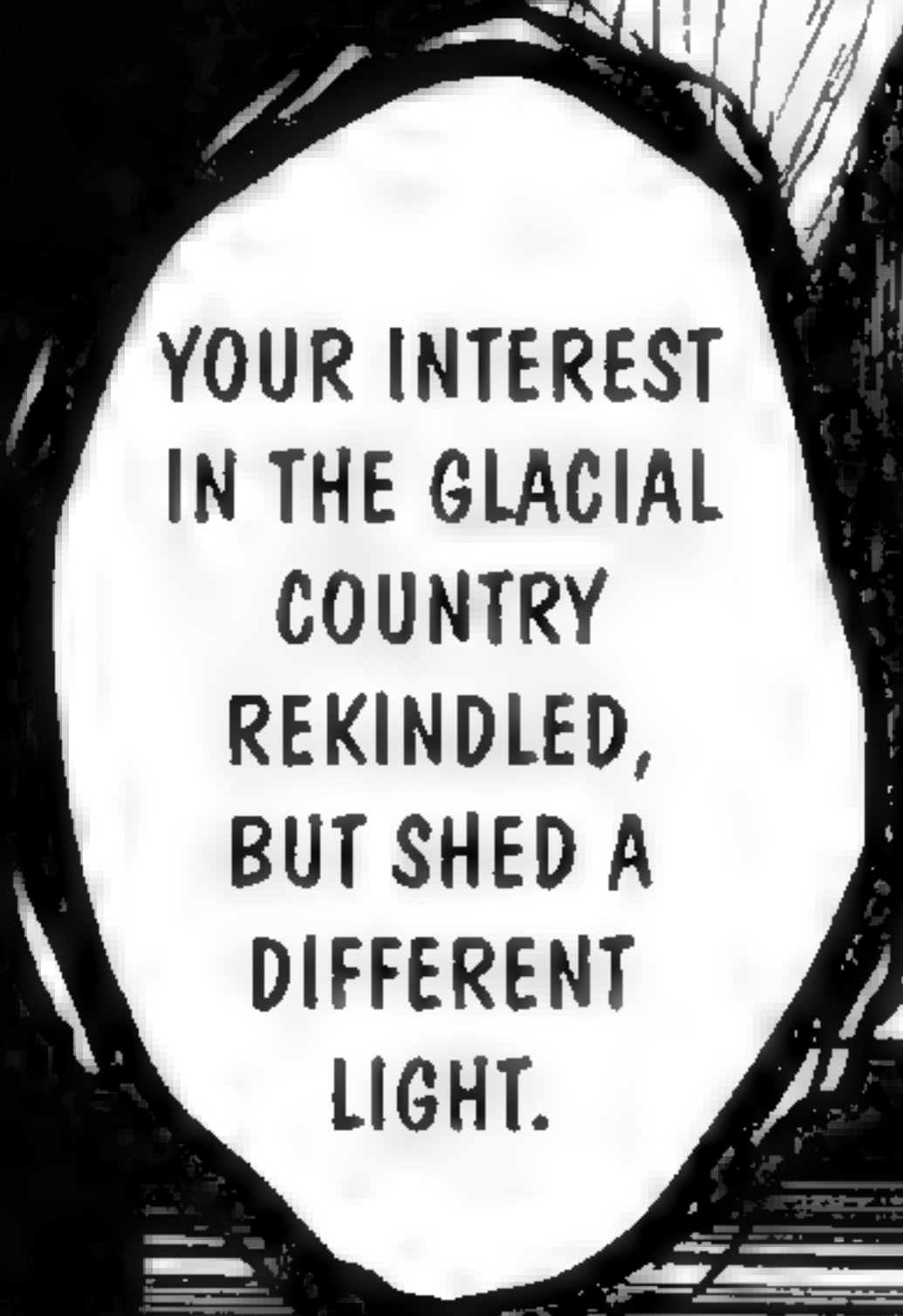


ONE  
DAY YOU  
REALIZED  
...





...AND YOU  
BEGAN TO  
WONDER ABOUT  
THE PERSON  
WHO GAVE YOU  
LIFE AND THIS  
STRANGE GIFT.



YOUR INTEREST  
IN THE GLACIAL  
COUNTRY  
REKINDLED,  
BUT SHED A  
DIFFERENT  
LIGHT.

YOUR BATTLE-  
HARDENED  
EXPRESSION  
WOULD  
SOFTEN...



...SOME  
QUITE  
FORMIDABLE.  
THEN...

YOU TRAVELED  
TO NEW  
PLACES,  
MET NEW  
ENEMIES...




YOU  
NEEDED  
BETTER  
EYES.

NOW YOU  
HAD TWO  
GOALS IN  
FRONT OF  
YOU.




...THE  
WORST  
HAPPENED.





EXTREME PAIN AND THE  
LOSS OF HARD-EARNED  
POWER WAS PART OF  
THE PRICE YOU HAD TO  
PAY TO GET THE EVIL  
EYE. BUT THAT DIDN'T  
BOTHER YOU A BIT.

IT WAS THE  
LEAST YOU FELT  
YOU DESERVED  
FOR YOUR  
CARELESSNESS.



YOU SAW YOUR  
MOTHER'S  
GRAVE BEHIND  
THE CASTLE...

THE ICE MAIDENS  
ALL SEEMED  
DEJECTED,  
SCARCELY WORTH  
EVEN A PASSING  
THOUGHT OF  
REVENGE.

YOUR NEW  
SIGHT HAD  
NO PROBLEM  
FINDING THE  
GLACIAL  
COUNTRY.

...BUT FELT NO  
ANGER, ONLY A  
SENSE THAT SHE  
WAS CONTENT IN  
HER FINAL REST.

YOU ALSO  
DISCOVERED YOU HAD  
A SISTER NAMED YUKINA,  
WHO DISAPPEARED A  
FEW YEARS BEFORE.  
HAVING ACCOMPLISHED  
ONE GOAL, YOU'D  
GAINED  
ANOTHER.

AFTERWARD YOU  
DRIFTED, FINALLY  
ENDING UP IN THE  
HUMAN WORLD...



YOU  
BATTLED A  
PECULIAR  
HUMAN...



...WHERE  
THINGS TOOK  
A STRANGE  
TURN.

KII



...AND  
SAW  
THINGS  
ANEW.



ALL YOU  
HAD LEFT TO DO  
WAS FIND YOUR  
OWN TEAR OF ICE.  
YOU WERE  
GROWING TIRED  
OF FIGHTING IN  
THE HUMAN  
WORLD.

YOU ALSO FOUND  
YOUR SISTER, BUT  
SHE DIDN'T KNOW  
YOU. YOU FELT,  
MORE THAN  
ANYTHING,  
RELIEVED.

YOU  
KNEW THIS  
WASN'T  
YOUR  
JEWEL.

YET AT THAT  
MOMENT YOU  
FELT YOU NO  
LONGER HAD  
A PURPOSE.

PLEASE GIVE  
THIS TO MY  
BROTHER.

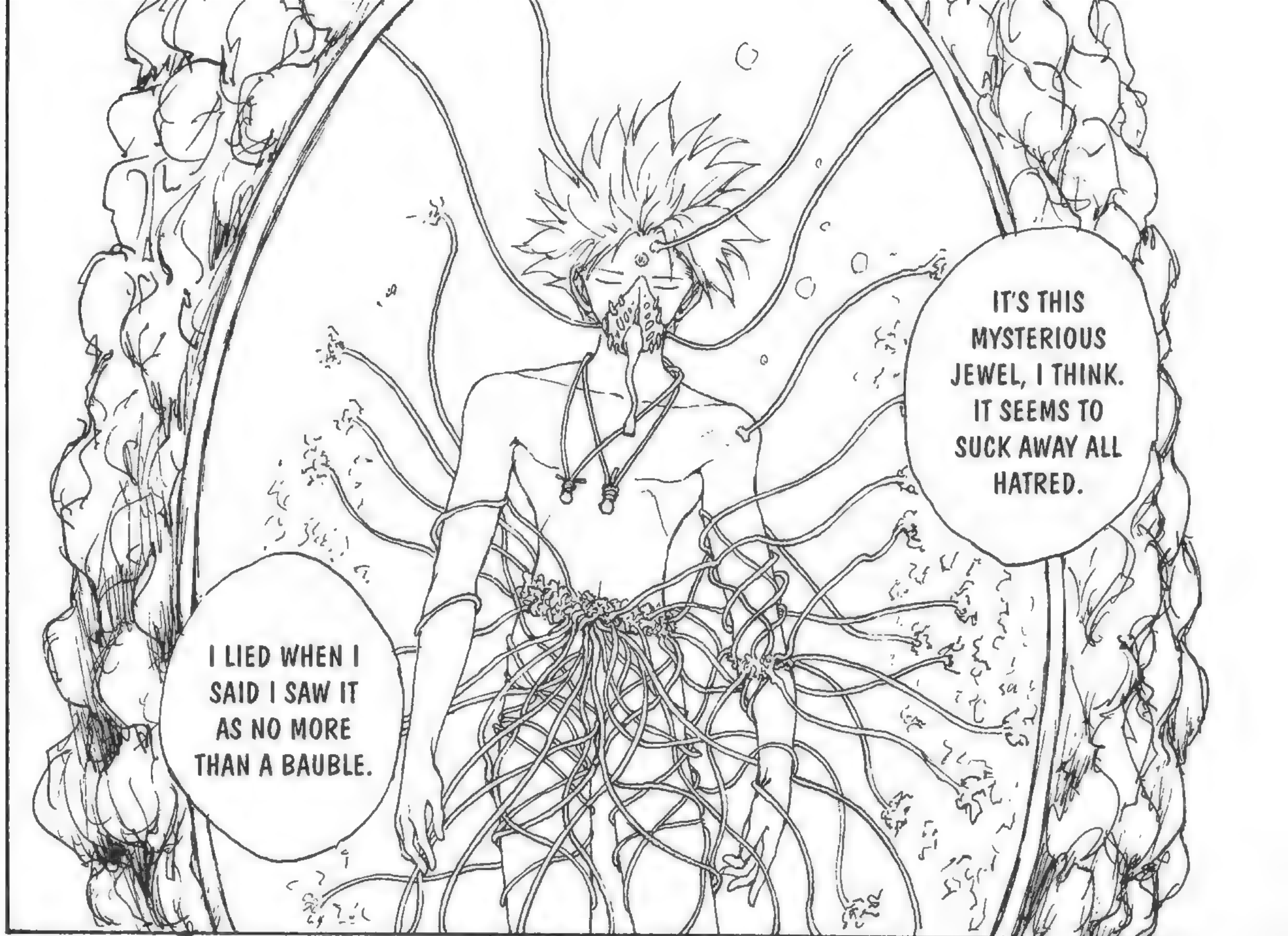
THEN...



I'VE NEVER  
ENCOUNTERED A  
CONSCIOUSNESS  
AS RELAXED  
AS YOURS.

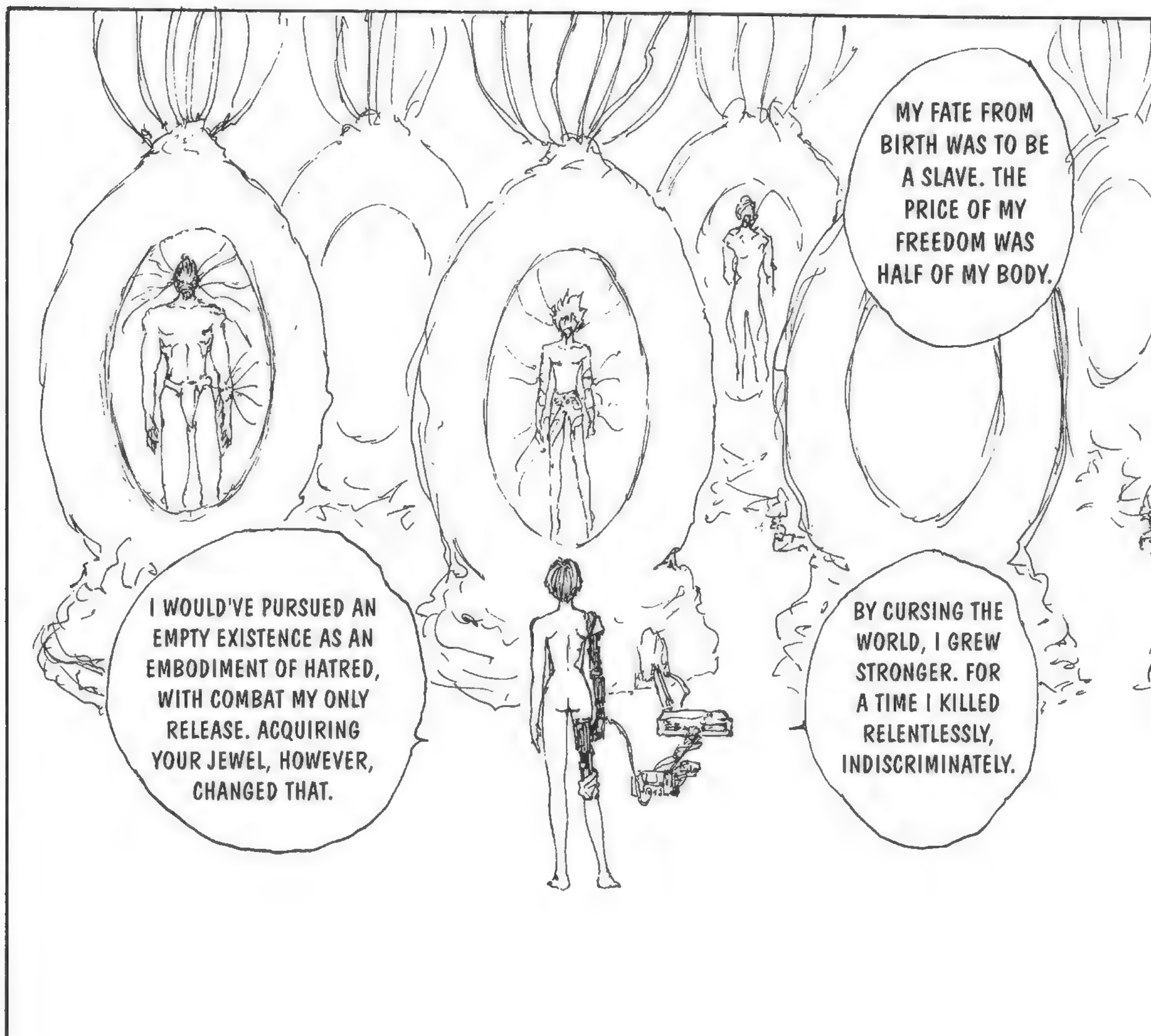
COMBAT WAS  
ALL THAT WAS  
LEFT TO YOU.  
YOU STARTED  
TO THINK OF WAYS  
TO DIE.





I LIED WHEN I  
SAID I SAW IT  
AS NO MORE  
THAN A BAUBLE.

IT'S THIS  
MYSTERIOUS  
JEWEL, I THINK.  
IT SEEMS TO  
SUCK AWAY ALL  
HATRED.



I WOULD'VE PURSUED AN  
EMPTY EXISTENCE AS AN  
EMBODIMENT OF HATRED,  
WITH COMBAT MY ONLY  
RELEASE. ACQUIRING  
YOUR JEWEL, HOWEVER,  
CHANGED THAT.

MY FATE FROM  
BIRTH WAS TO BE  
A SLAVE. THE  
PRICE OF MY  
FREEDOM WAS  
HALF OF MY BODY.

BY CURSING THE  
WORLD, I GREW  
STRONGER. FOR  
A TIME I KILLED  
RELENTLESSLY,  
INDISCRIMINATELY.





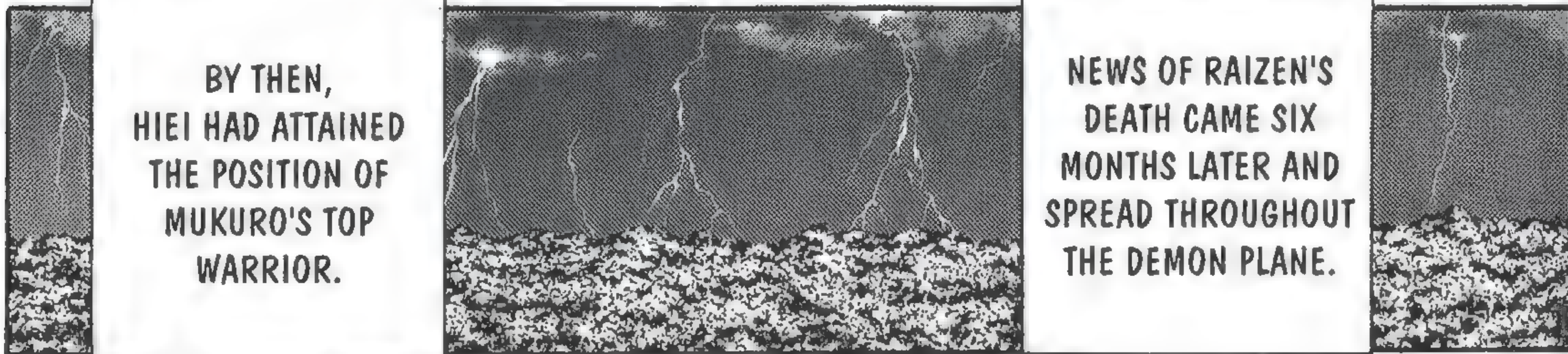
LET ME SHOW  
YOU ALL THAT I AM,  
ALL THAT I HAVE  
BECOME. FEEL MY  
CONSCIOUSNESS NOW.

NOW I'M PROUD OF  
MY LOST HALF.  
I HAVE NO DESIRE  
TO HEAL IT.



LIVE, SO YOU MAY  
ONE DAY DIE AS  
YOU TRULY WISH.

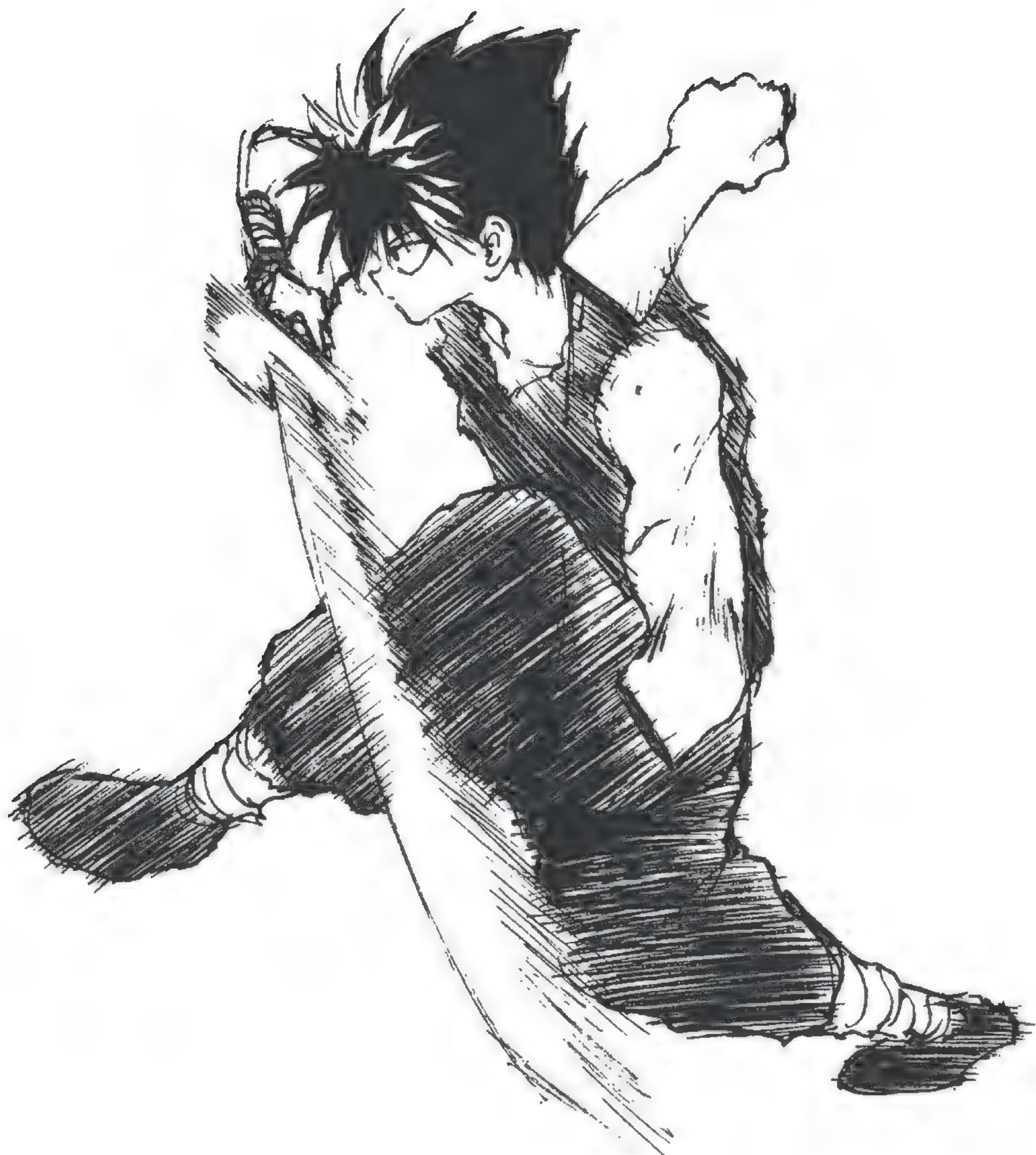
LIVE,  
HIEI.



BY THEN,  
HIEI HAD ATTAINED  
THE POSITION OF  
MUKURO'S TOP  
WARRIOR.

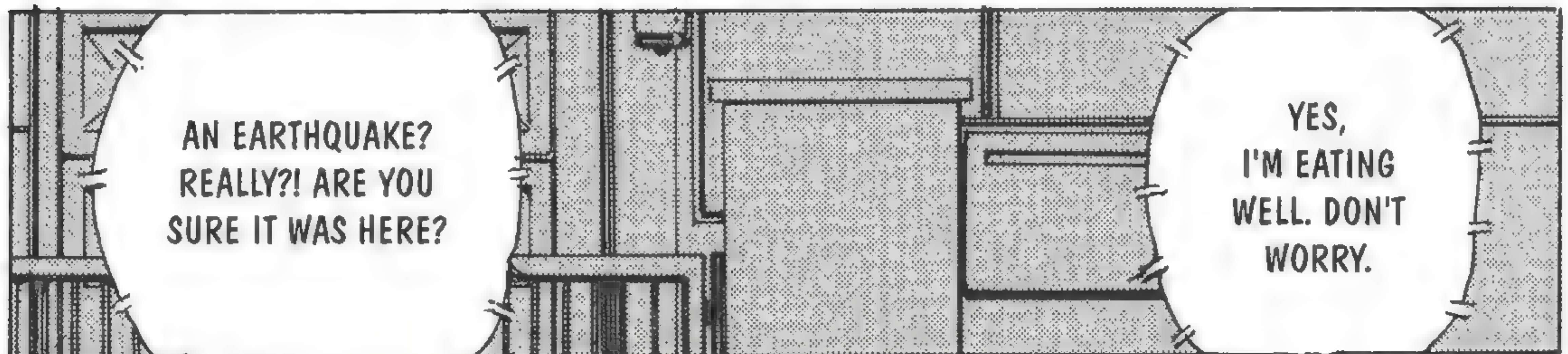
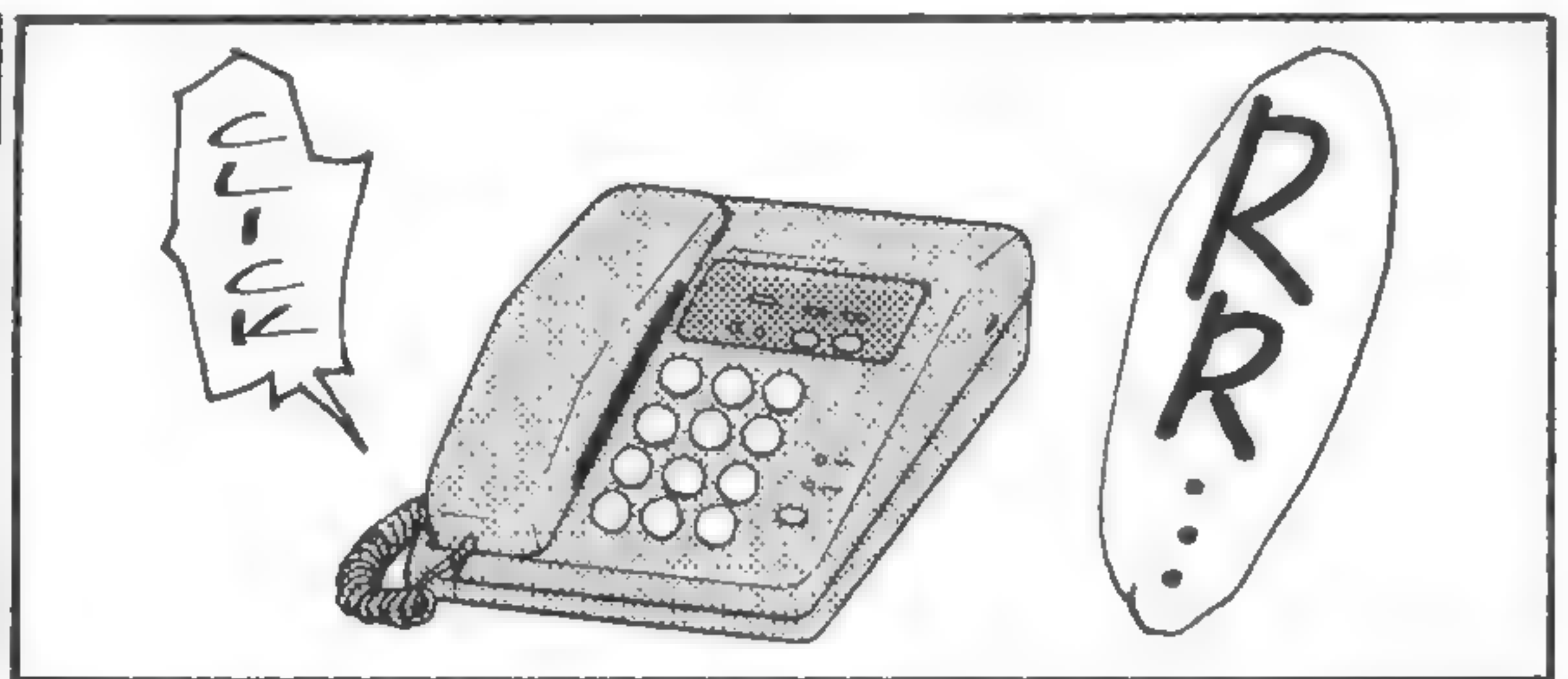
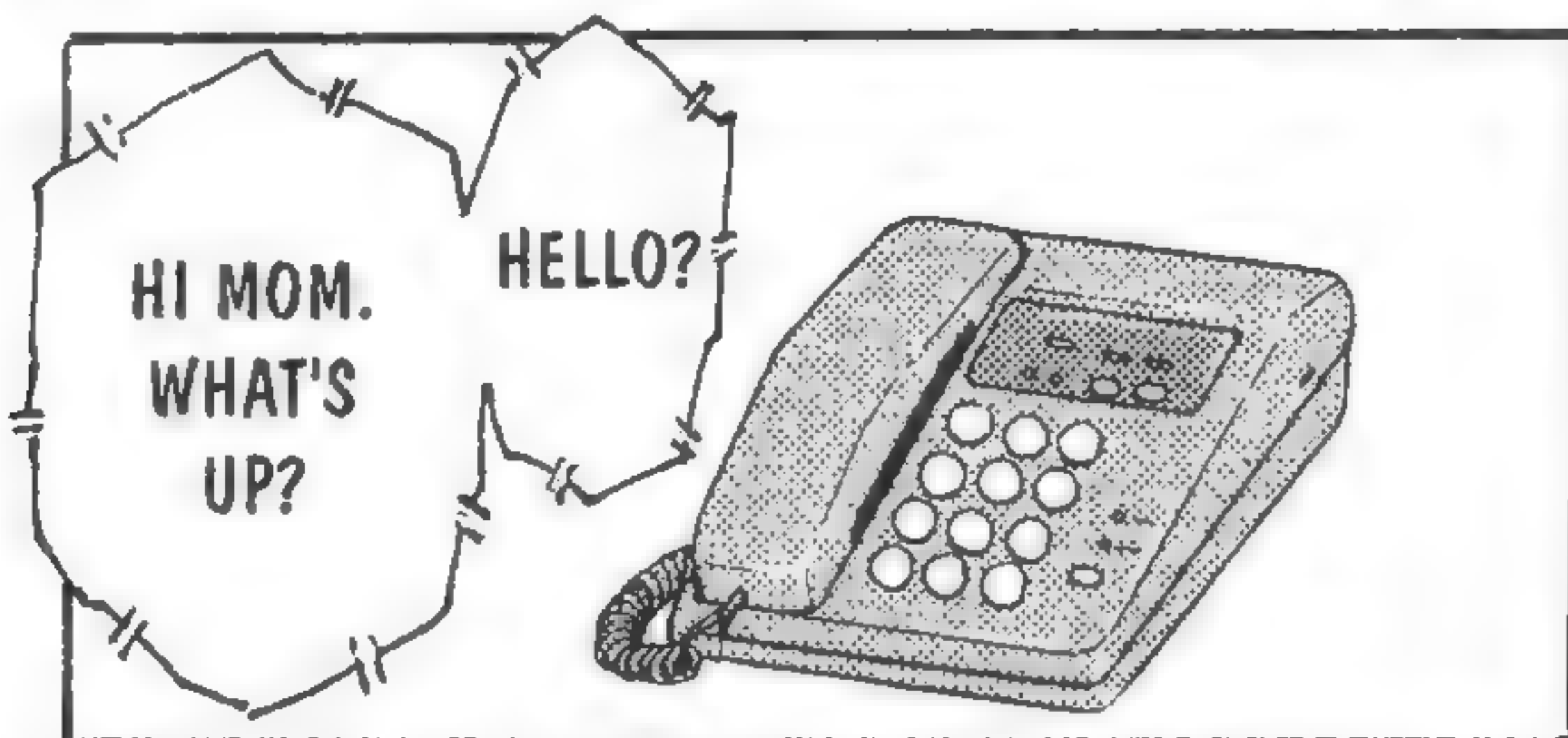
NEWS OF RAIZEN'S  
DEATH CAME SIX  
MONTHS LATER AND  
SPREAD THROUGHOUT  
THE DEMON PLANE.





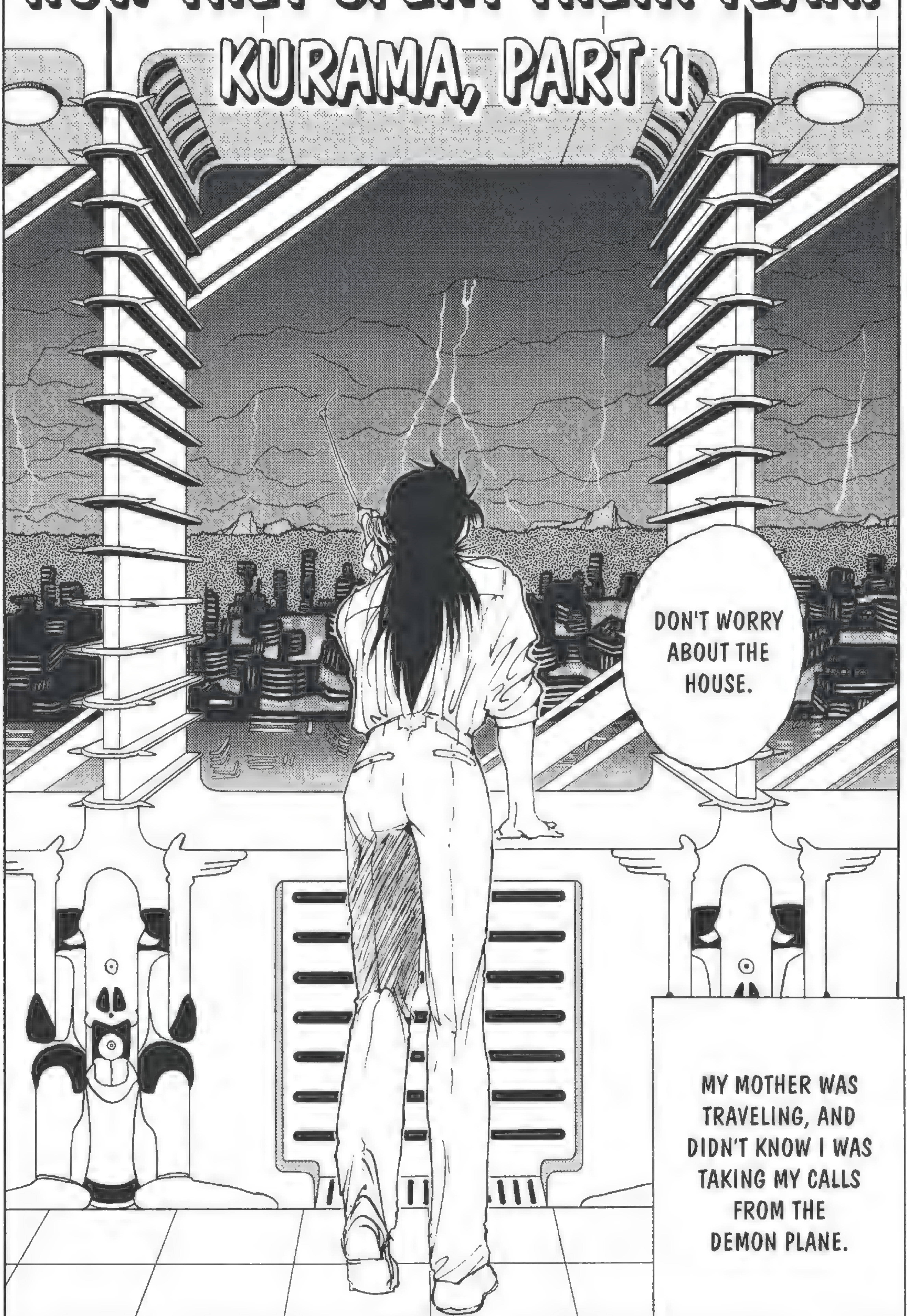


# HOW THEY SPENT THEIR YEAR: KURAMA, PART 1





# HOW THEY SPENT THEIR YEAR: KURAMA, PART 1



DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT THE  
HOUSE.

MY MOTHER WAS  
TRAVELING, AND  
DIDN'T KNOW I WAS  
TAKING MY CALLS  
FROM THE  
DEMON PLANE.



MOM'S FIANCÉ FIRST  
APOLOGIZED FOR BEING  
OLD-FASHIONED,  
THEN PROPOSED WITH  
A PROMISE TO TAKE  
CARE OF HER FOR THE  
REST OF HER LIFE.



SHE'D MOVED UP THE  
DATE OF THE WEDDING,  
REMARRYING IN JULY  
WITH ONLY IMMEDIATE  
FAMILY ATTENDING THE  
MODEST CEREMONY.  
THE COUPLE APPEARED  
TO BE QUITE HAPPY.

I ADMIT,  
I WANTED  
THEM AT A  
REMOVE...

MY GIFT TO THEM  
WAS A RATHER  
FORCEFUL INSISTENCE  
THAT THEY HONEY-  
MOON ABROAD FOR  
THE ENTIRE MONTH  
OF AUGUST.

A MONTH AFTER YUSUKE  
LEFT, I JOINED YOMI  
AS HIS ADVISOR,  
THOUGH ONLY DURING  
SUMMER VACATION.

...TIME  
TO GO.

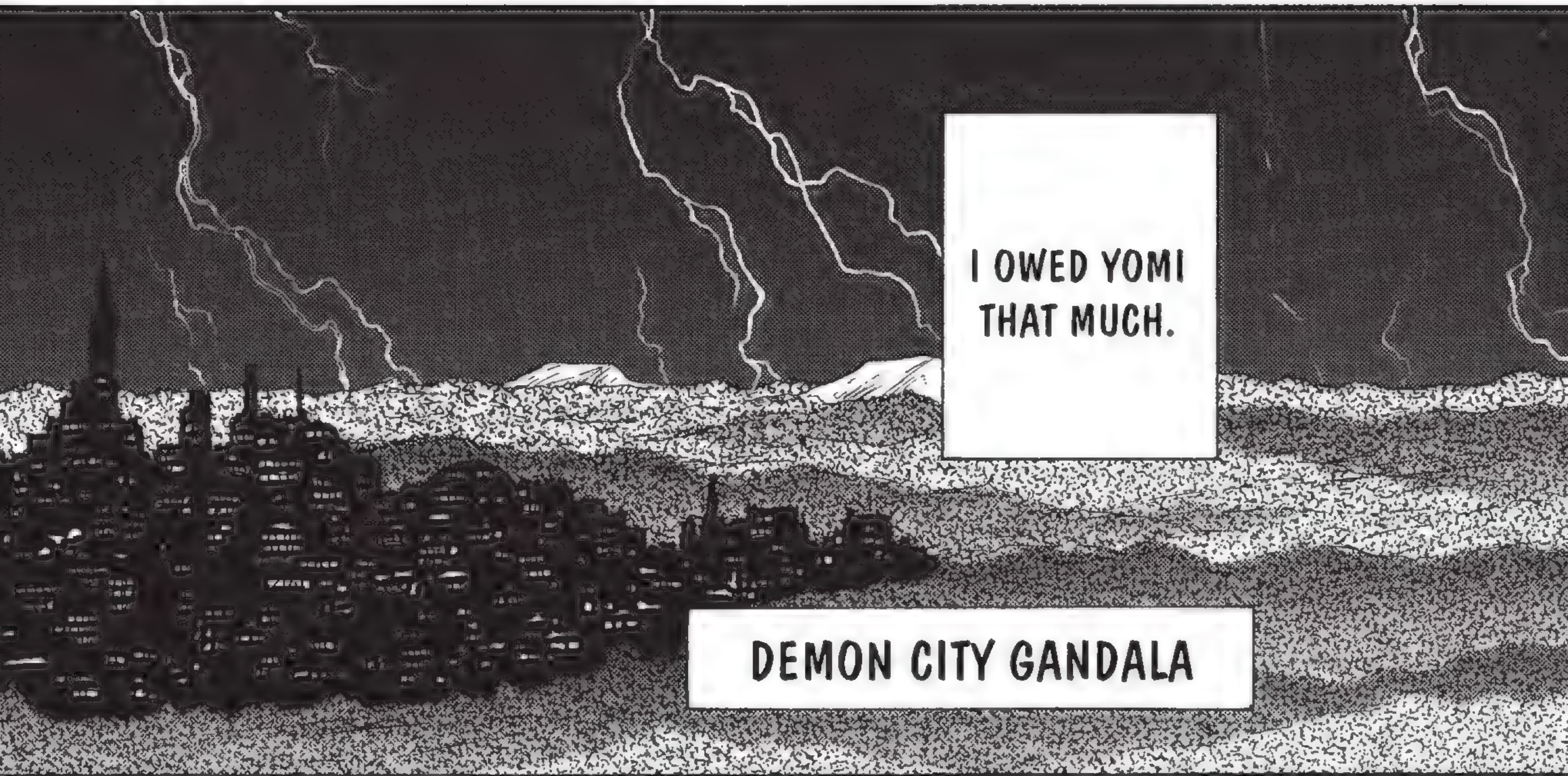
WELL  
...

BY THE TIME OF THE  
WEDDING, YUSUKE  
HAD BEEN GONE FOR  
TWO MONTHS.  
HE'D HAVE COME  
OTHERWISE.

WISH I  
COULD BE AT  
YOUR MOM'S  
WEDDING.

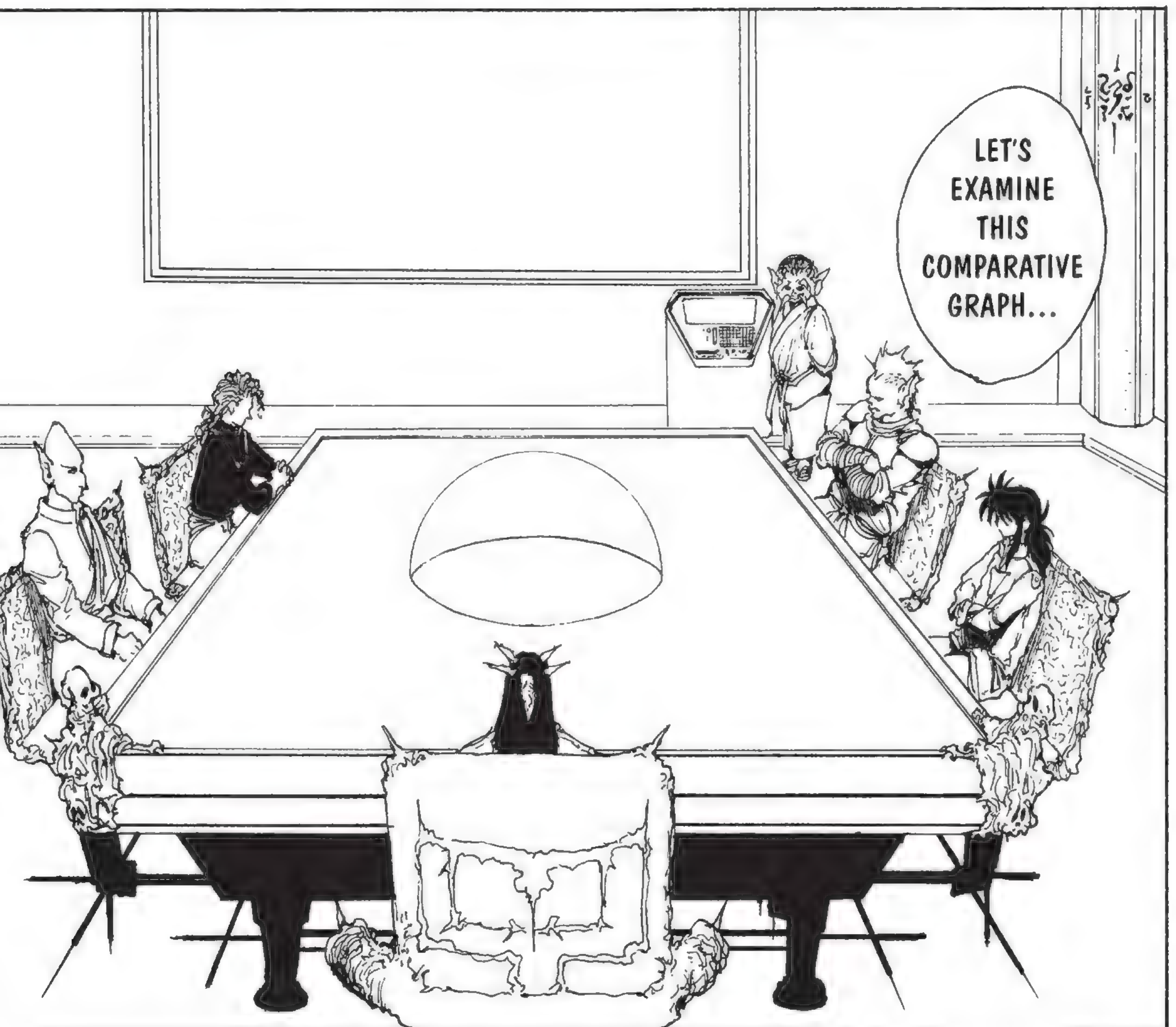




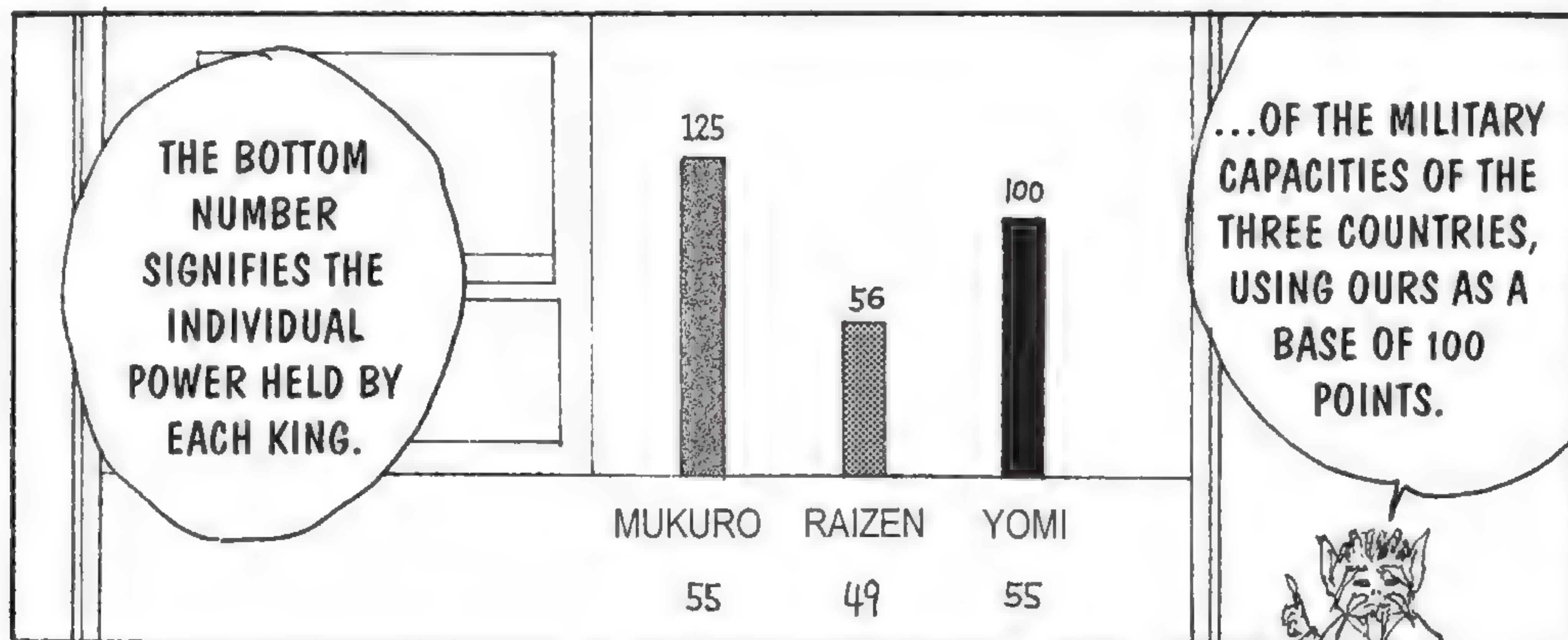
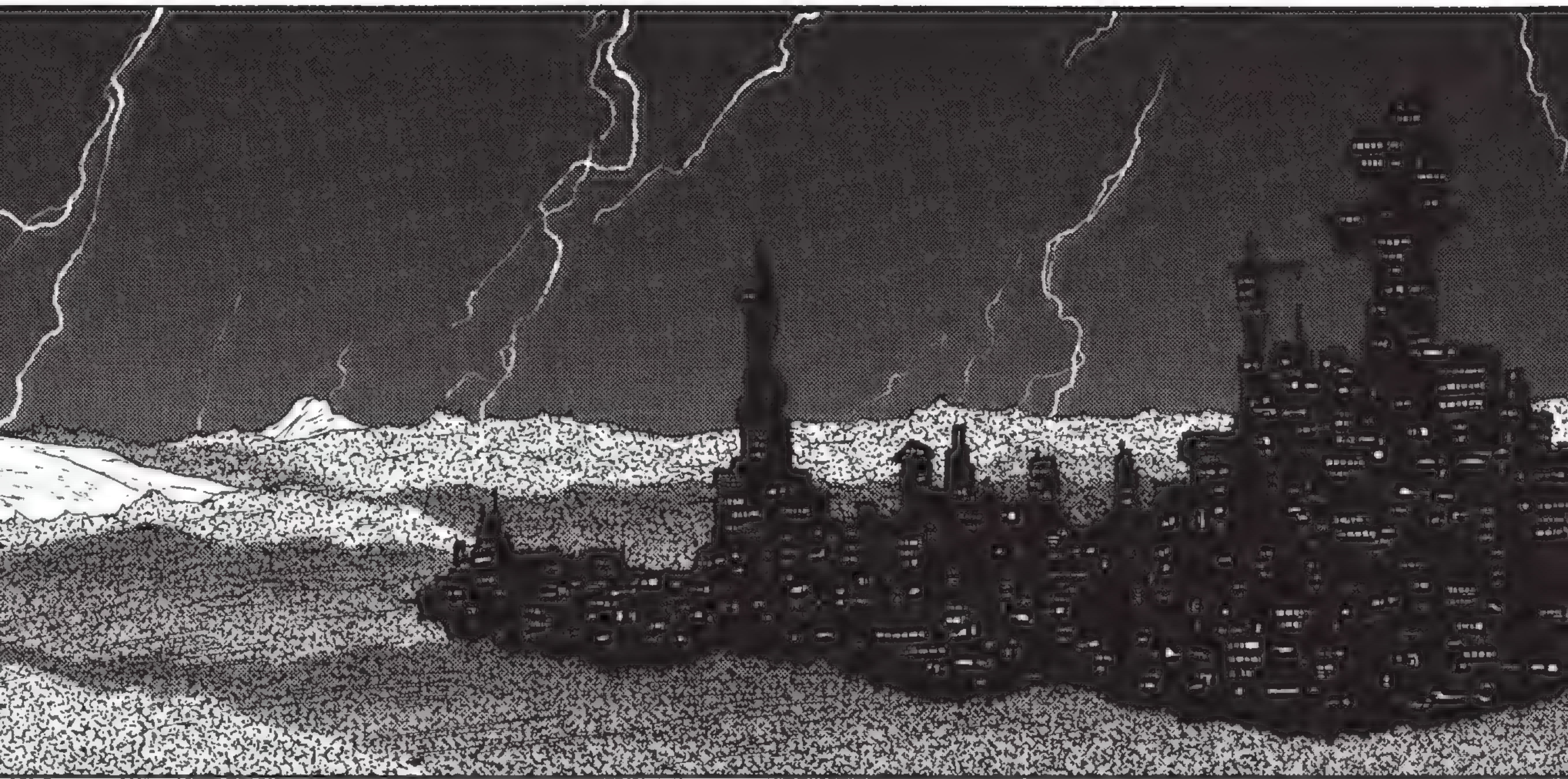


I OWED YOMI  
THAT MUCH.

## DEMON CITY GANDALA

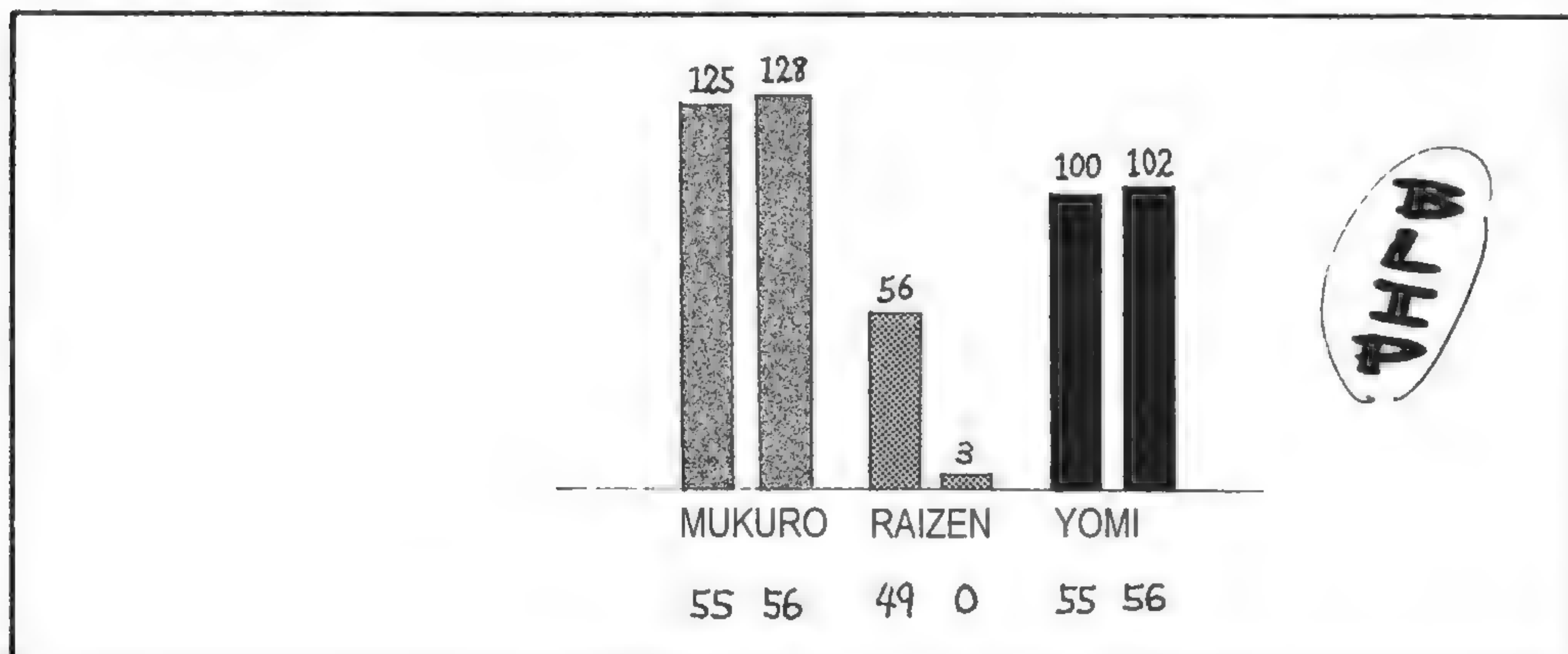






NOW, PROJECTING A YEAR FROM NOW...

THE POWER OF EACH KING IS WHAT STILL MATTERS.







TELEPATHIC  
ANTENNA  
TRANSMITS  
INFORMATION  
DIRECTLY TO THE  
BRAIN SO THE  
BLIND CAN "SEE"  
VISUAL DATA.



...WE SEE THAT  
RAIZEN LIKELY  
WILL DIE.



No comment.



THIS IS  
DRAWN  
FROM  
RELIABLE  
DATA.



WHAT'S  
YOUR  
OPINION,  
KURAMA?

HM...



GRACE US WITH  
YOUR VAUNTED  
INGENUITY AND  
FORESIGHT.

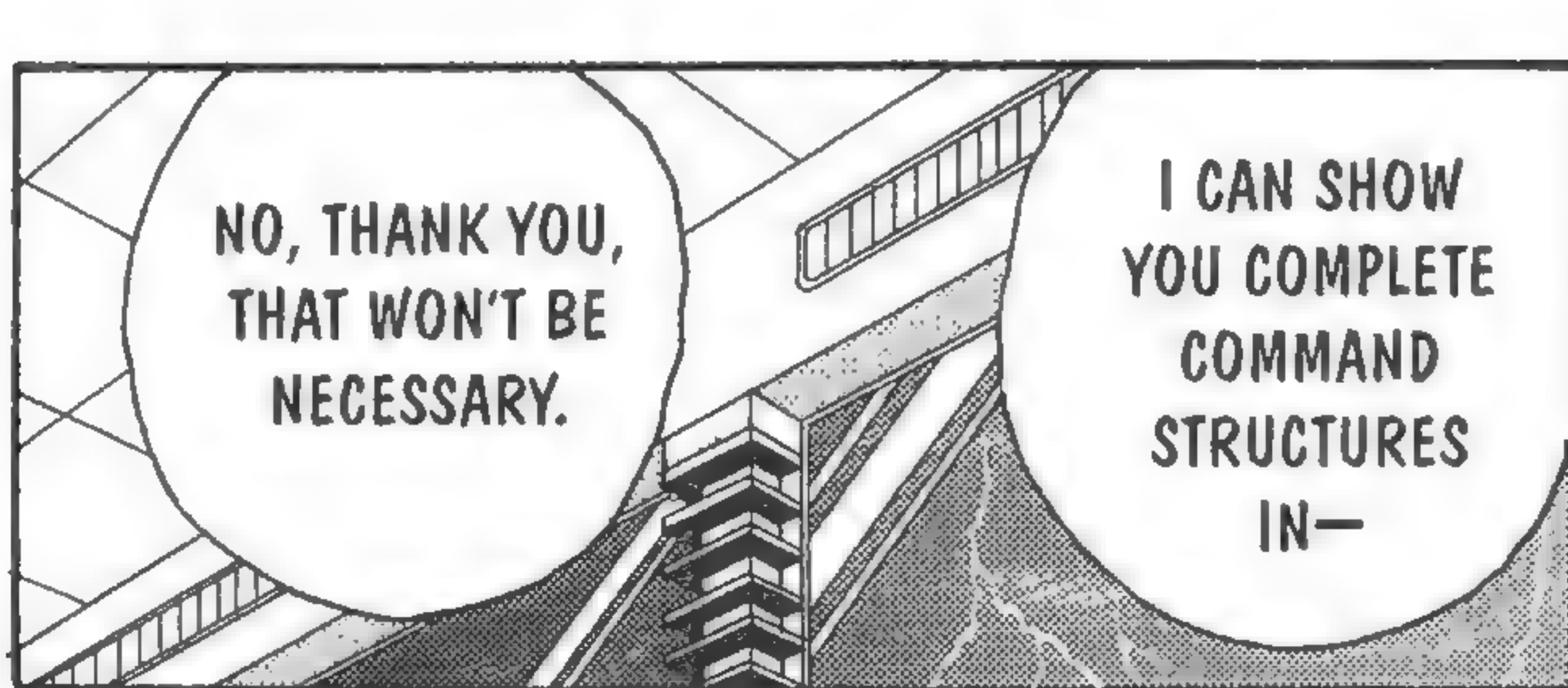
YES,  
PLEASE  
TELL US.



...WE SHOULD  
PREPARE TO  
RECRUIT THE  
EXPECTED EXODUS OF  
TROOPS FROM  
RAIZEN'S COUNTRY,  
AND STEP UP  
HEADHUNTING  
ELSEWHERE.

AS FOR OUR  
MILITARY  
PLANS FOR  
THE SECOND  
HALF OF THIS  
YEAR...





TP	(TOTAL DEMONIC POWER)	1550000
HP	(HIT POINTS)	422500
OP	(OFFENSIVE POWER)	382500
DP	(DEFENSIVE POWER)	325000
SP	(SPECIAL POWERS)	410000

BLIP

FIRST, LORD YOMI.

NEXT, MUKURO.

TP	1575000
HP	351000
OP	231000
DP	423000
SP	570000

BLIP

TP	1322000
HP	460000
OP	424000
DP	352000
SP	86000

BLIP

THEN RAIZEN.



TP 37800  
HP 10900  
OP 10500  
DP 11000  
SP 5400

FIRST, OUR  
OWN LORD  
SHACHI.

NOW THE  
SECONDS-IN-  
COMMAND.

TP 36000  
HP 13000  
OP 5900  
DP 12500  
SP 4600

AND FINALLY,  
RAIZEN'S  
HOKUSHIN, A  
TAO MASTER.

TP 89500  
HP 21200  
OP 22000  
DP 16400  
SP 29900

NEXT,  
MUKURO'S  
"ORIGIN OF  
EVIL" KIRIN.

WAS IT  
OF HELP?

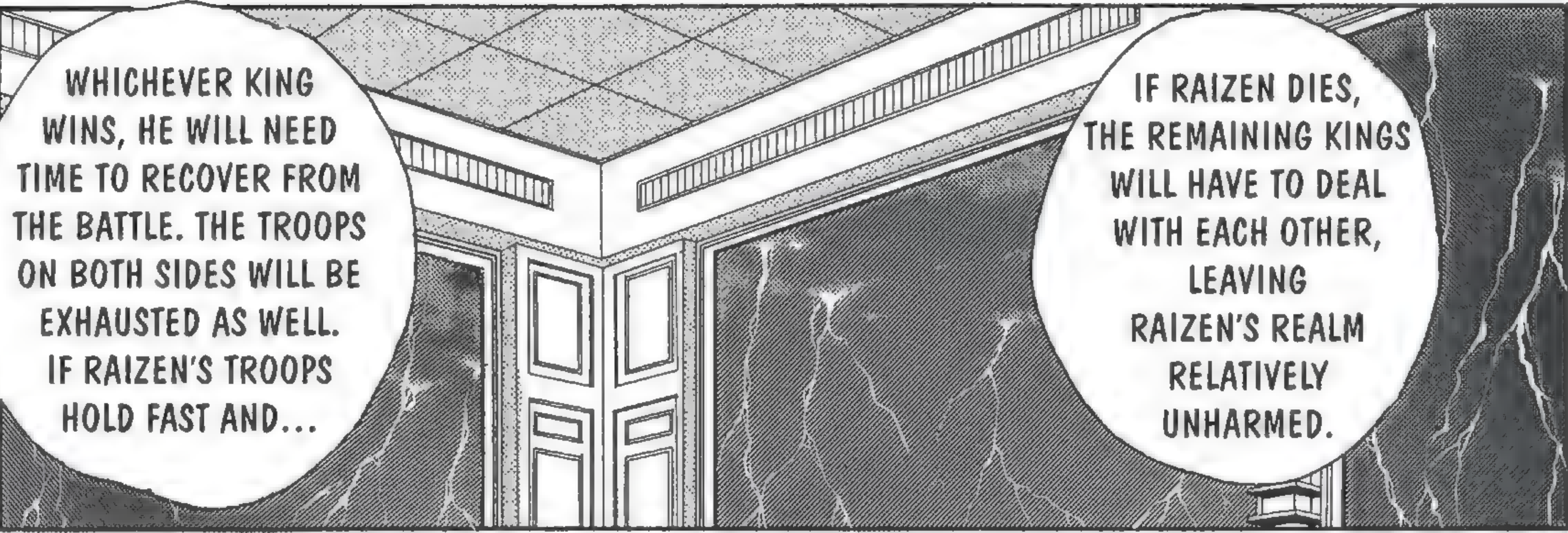
THAT'S  
THE LOT.

YET THEY WILL  
DECIDE THE  
WAR.

...AS POWER  
GOES, THE  
SECONDS-IN-  
COMMAND ARE  
MERE SPARKS  
NEXT TO THE  
INFERNOS OF  
THE KINGS.

HM...





WHICHEVER KING  
WINS, HE WILL NEED  
TIME TO RECOVER FROM  
THE BATTLE. THE TROOPS  
ON BOTH SIDES WILL BE  
EXHAUSTED AS WELL.  
IF RAIZEN'S TROOPS  
HOLD FAST AND...

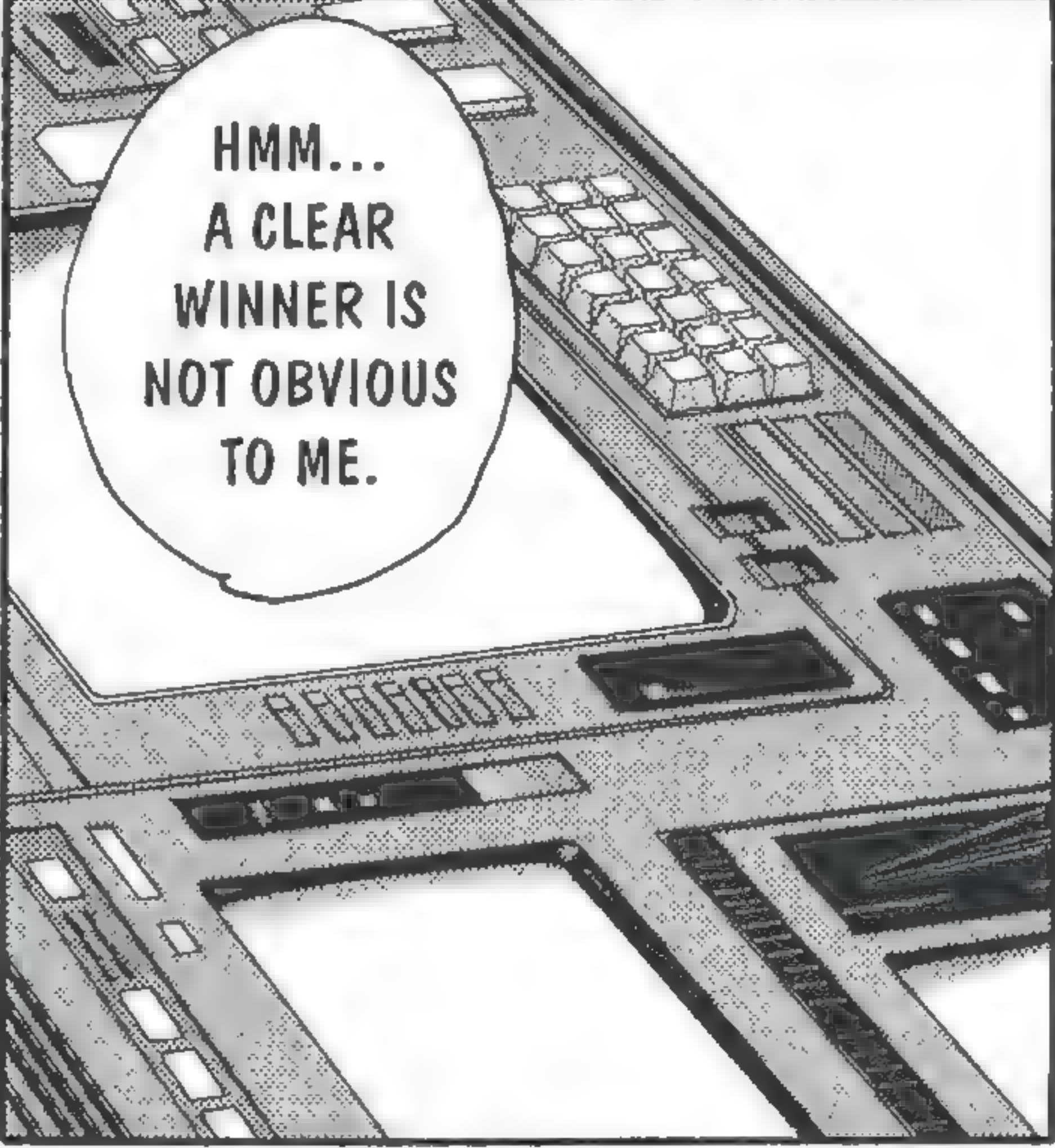
IF RAIZEN DIES,  
THE REMAINING KINGS  
WILL HAVE TO DEAL  
WITH EACH OTHER,  
LEAVING  
RAIZEN'S REALM  
RELATIVELY  
UNHARMED.



ANY MORE  
WORDS OF  
WISDOM,  
DEMON FOX?

Heh  
Heh


HMPH!  
HOW  
SAGACIOUS.



HMM...  
A CLEAR  
WINNER IS  
NOT OBVIOUS  
TO ME.



?!



THERE WILL  
THEN BE AN  
UPHEAVAL...




WHAT  
?!



...THAT WILL  
TOPPLE ALL  
SECONDS-IN-  
COMMAND IN  
SIX MONTHS.



EASY, SHACHI,  
HE'S STILL  
NEW HERE.



WE'VE HAD A **STANDOFF**  
FOR THE LAST 500  
YEARS! THE BALANCE  
OF POWER WON'T  
COLLAPSE SO QUICKLY!





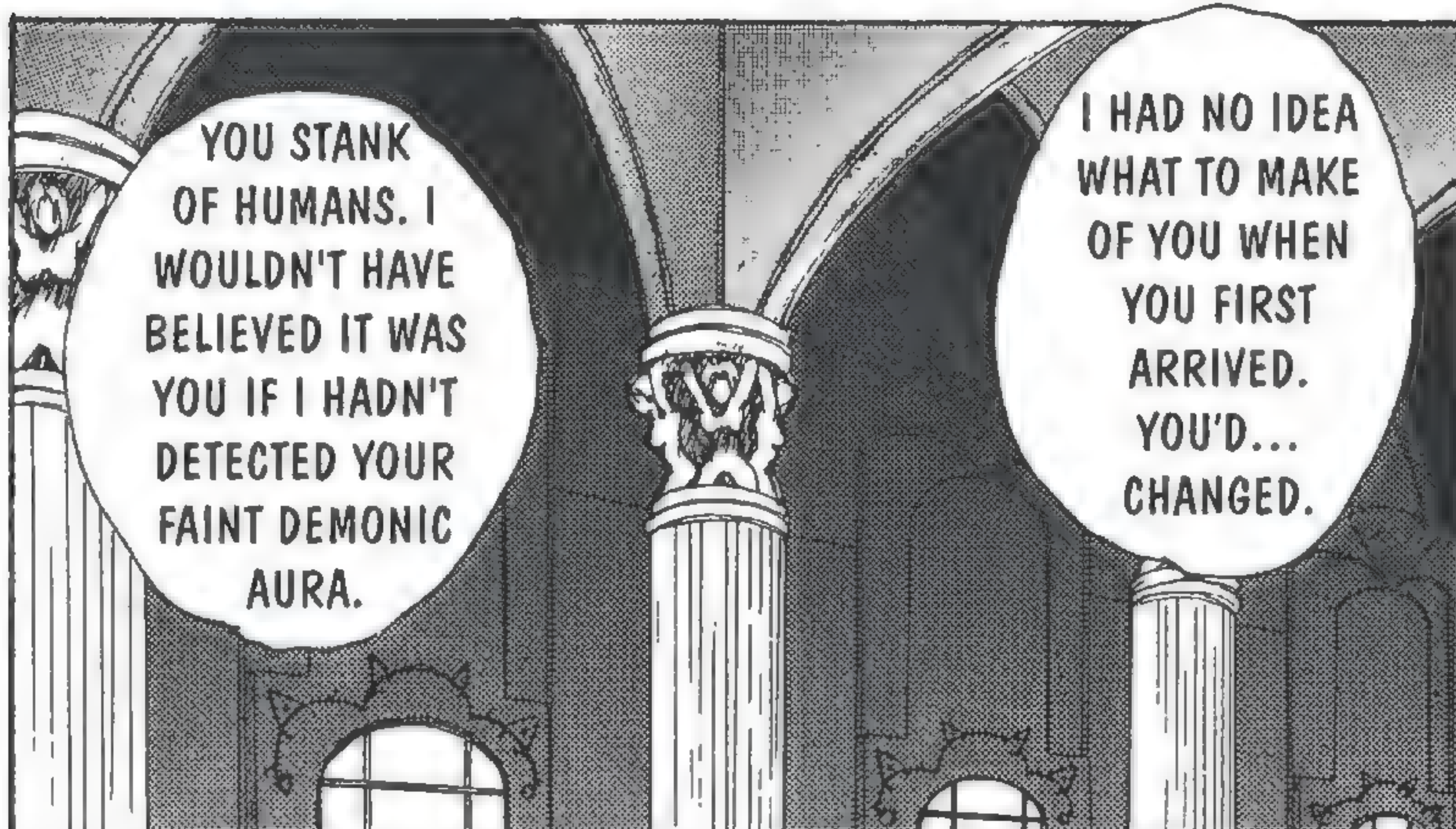
BEING BLIND  
HAS SOME  
ADVANTAGES.

CHANGES  
IN BODY  
TEMPERATURE,  
BLOOD  
PRESSURE,  
MUSCLE  
TENSION...  
OH YES.



INTERESTING  
MEETING. SHACHI  
WOULDN'T STOP  
SCOWLING  
AT YOU.

YOU  
COULD  
TELL?



YOU STANK  
OF HUMANS. I  
WOULDN'T HAVE  
BELIEVED IT WAS  
YOU IF I HADN'T  
DETECTED YOUR  
FAINT DEMONIC  
AURA.

I HAD NO IDEA  
WHAT TO MAKE  
OF YOU WHEN  
YOU FIRST  
ARRIVED.  
YOU'D...  
CHANGED.



...THAT WAS  
ALWAYS YOUR  
PET THEORY.

AS FOR THE  
SECONDS-IN-  
COMMAND  
HOLDING THE  
KEY TO  
VICTORY...





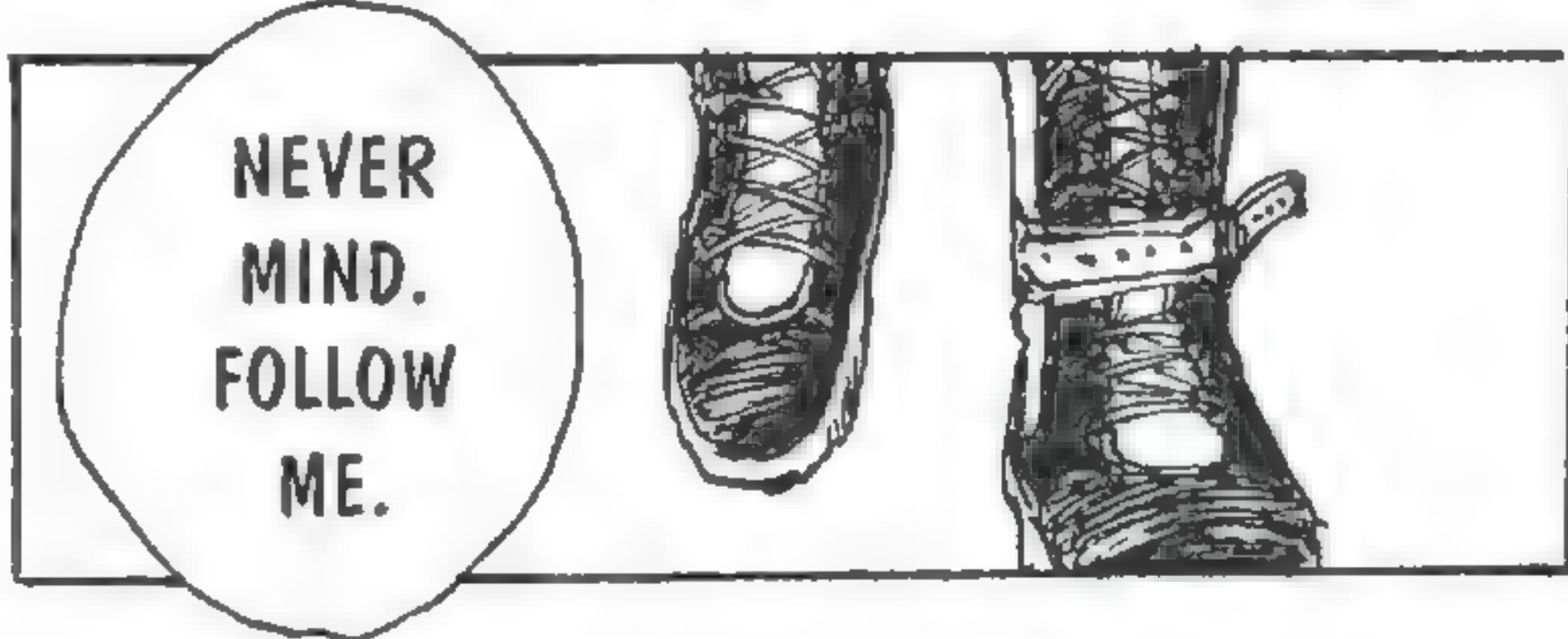


AS I MENTIONED  
EARLIER, I FOUND  
THE DEMON THAT  
TOOK MY SIGHT.



AH YES...

...I ALMOST  
FORGOT.

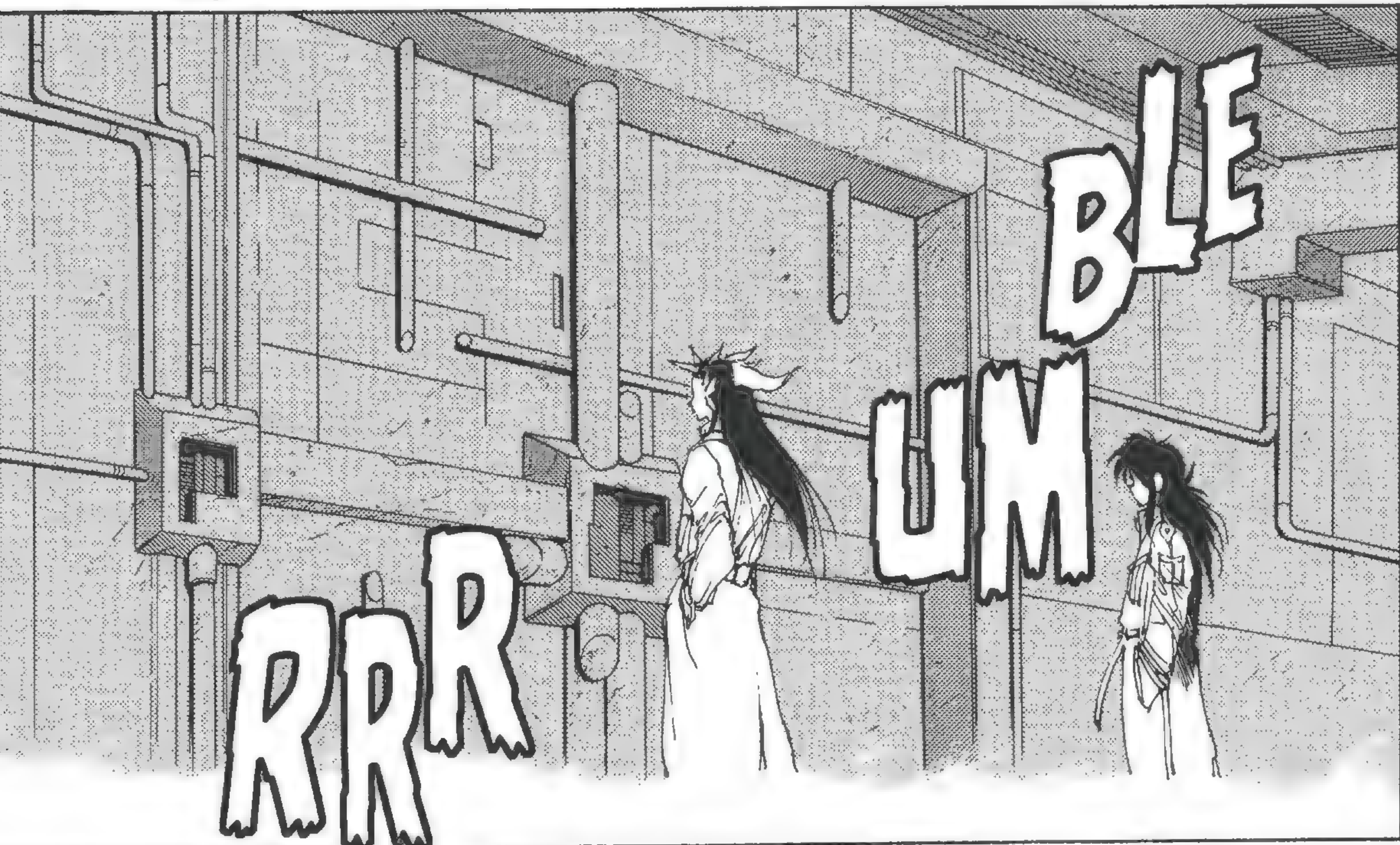



NEVER  
MIND.  
FOLLOW  
ME.



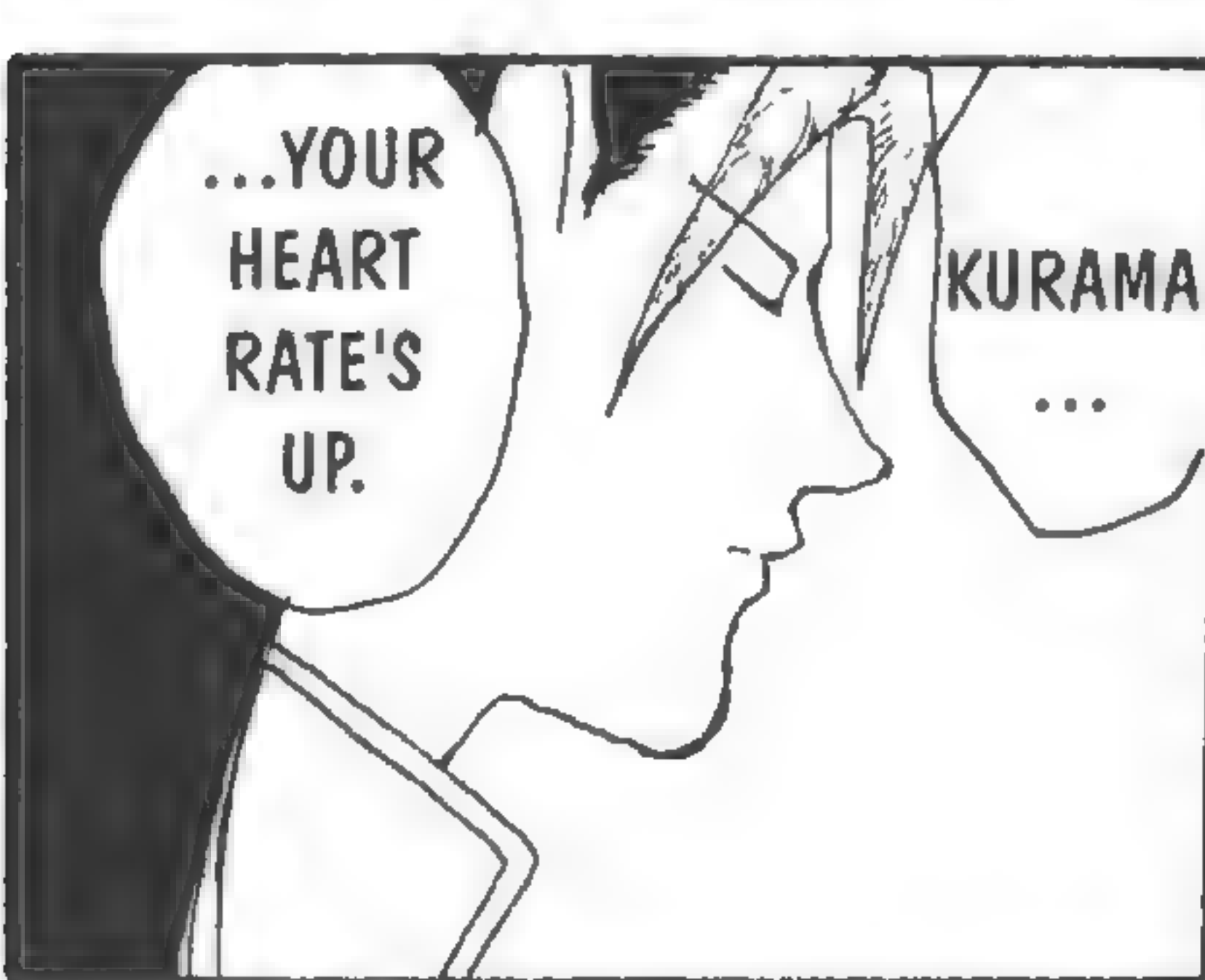
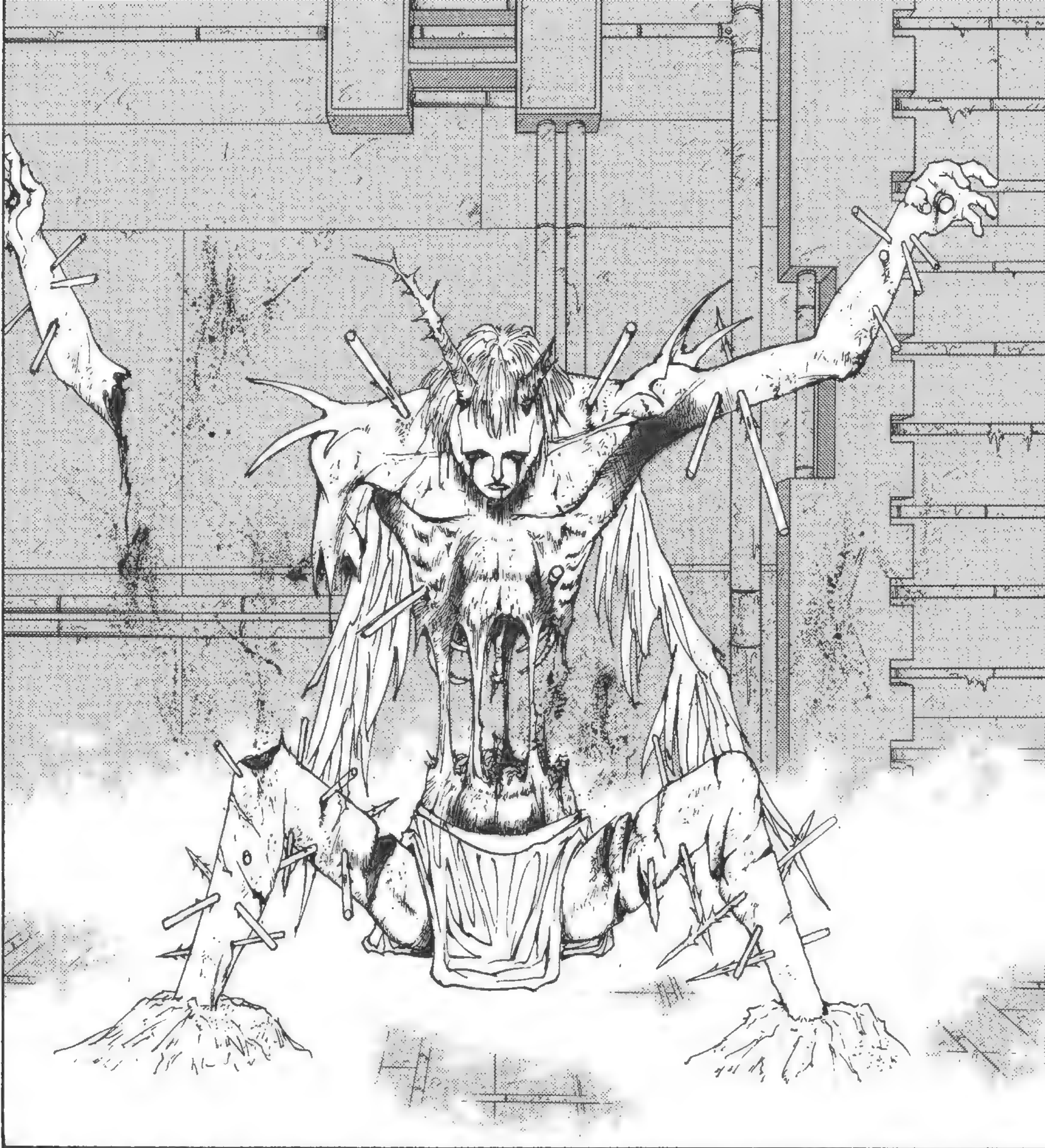
WHAT'S  
WRONG?

...



CREE  EEEK





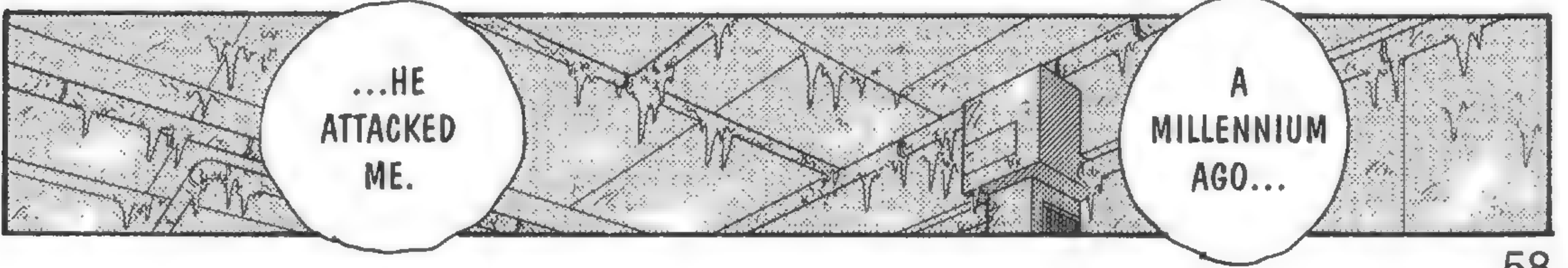
...YOUR  
HEART  
RATE'S  
UP.

KURAMA  
...



HE HARDLY  
MOVES OR  
SPEAKS NOW.

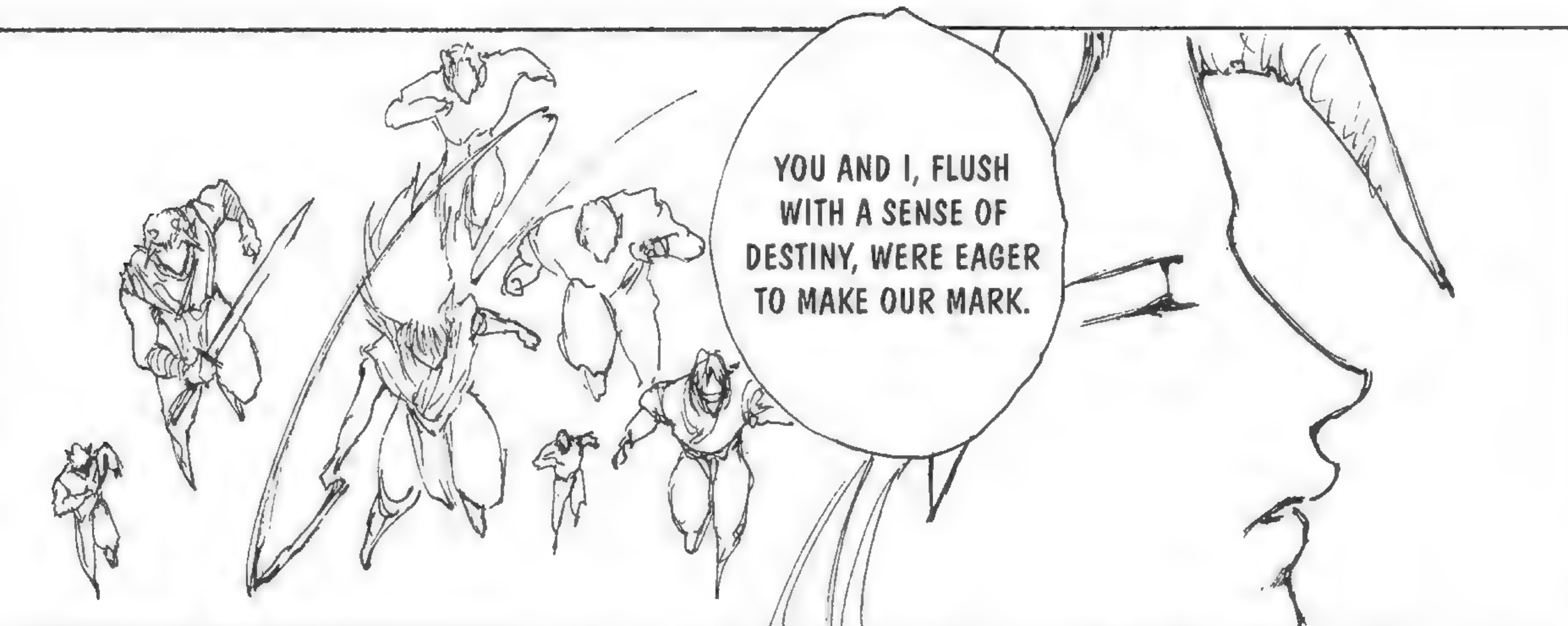
ADVANCED  
DECAY HAS  
SET IN.



...HE  
ATTACKED  
ME.

A  
MILLENNIUM  
AGO...





YOU AND I, FLUSH  
WITH A SENSE OF  
DESTINY, WERE EAGER  
TO MAKE OUR MARK.

TO KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE  
STONE, WE TOOK UP BANDITRY,  
THE MOST POPULAR PROFESSION  
IN THE DEMON PLANE. I WAS  
YOUR SECOND IN COMMAND.



WE SOUGHT THE  
POWER AND  
ASSETS REQUIRED  
TO BUILD A  
NATION.



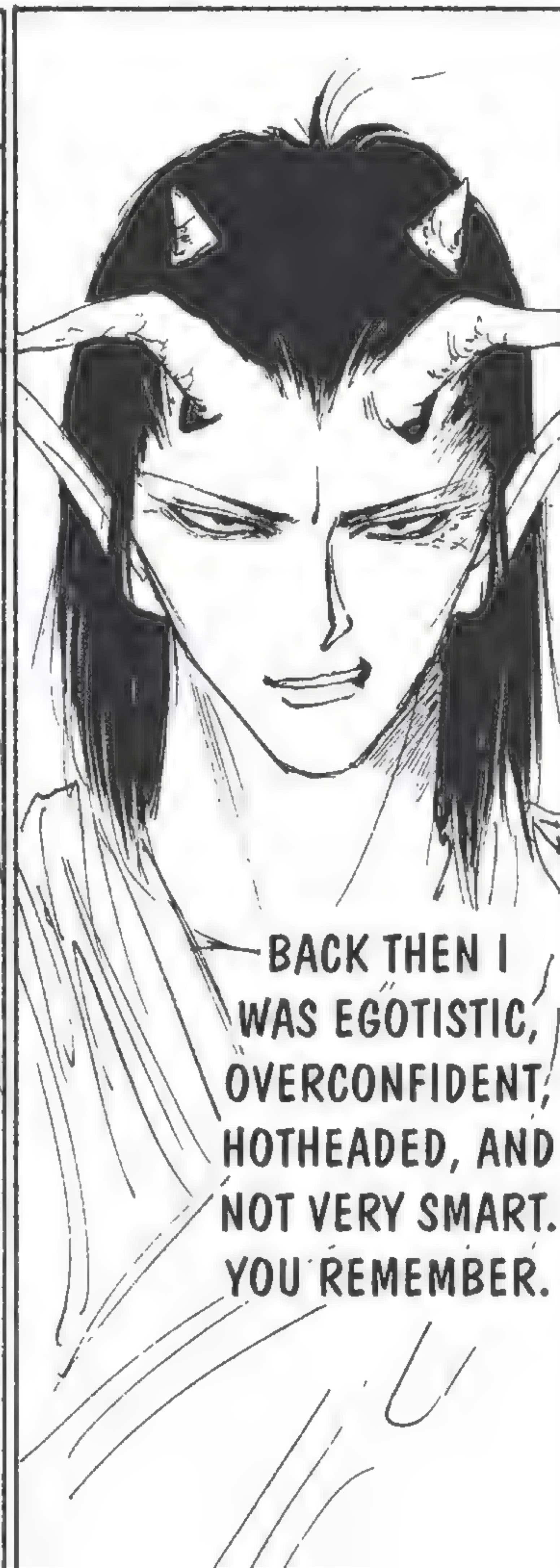
THINKING  
BACK, MY  
NAÏVETÉ  
MUST'VE  
SEEMED...

...PERFECTLY  
RIDICULOUS,  
EVEN  
WORRISOME.

THEN  
ONE  
DAY...

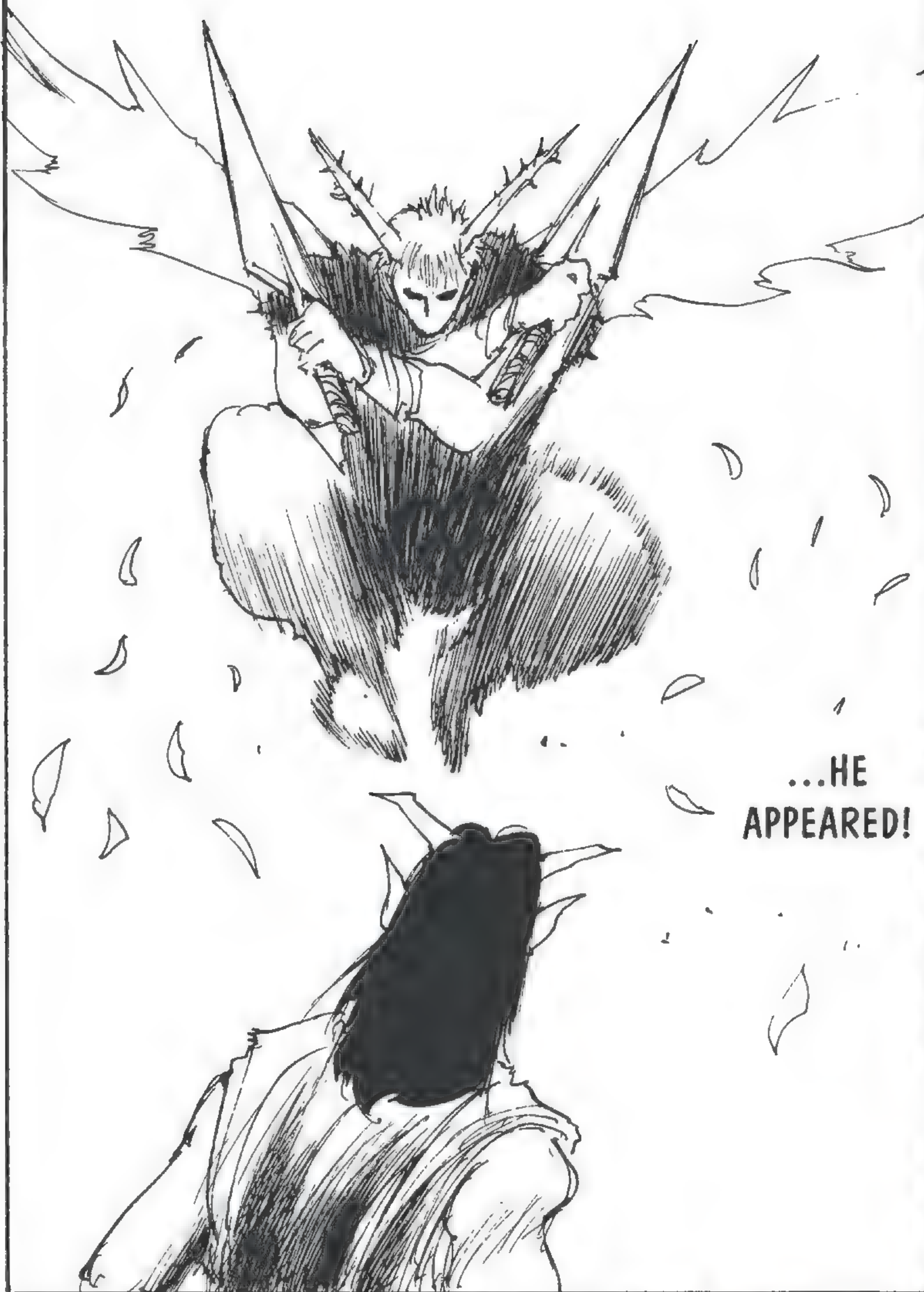


ON THE OTHER  
HAND, YOU WERE  
SOBRIETY ITSELF,  
EVEN AT YOUR MOST  
VICIOUS. YOU  
ALWAYS PLANNED  
AHEAD WITH  
BREATHTAKING  
EXACTITUDE.



BACK THEN I  
WAS EGOTISTIC,  
OVERCONFIDENT,  
HOTHEADED, AND  
NOT VERY SMART.  
YOU REMEMBER.





...WHEN I  
WENT OUT TO  
CONDUCT A  
SOLO RAID ON  
A VILLAGE...

...HE  
APPEARED!



I WAITED  
FOR  
RESCUE...  
THAT  
NEVER  
CAME.

I HAD  
NO IDEA  
WHAT WAS  
GOING ON.



HE BLINDED ME,  
BUT I WOUNDED  
HIM. HE TOOK OFF,  
SAYING, "MY LIFE'S  
MORE IMPORTANT  
THAN THE PAY."

HE WAS  
POWERFUL,  
MY VERITABLE  
EQUAL AT  
THE TIME.



FOR SOME REASON  
OUR AMBITIONS NO  
LONGER SEEMED TO  
INTEREST YOU. YOU LEFT  
THE DEMON PLANE, AND  
MUKURO AND RAIZEN  
ASCENDED TO  
PROMINENCE.



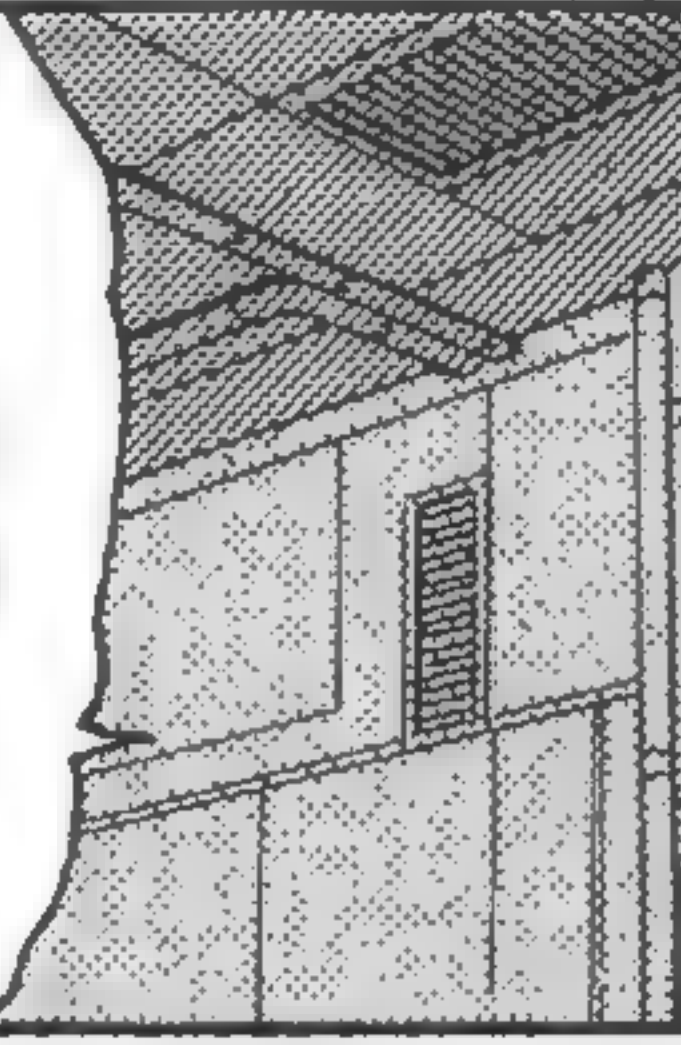
AND YOU WERE  
GONE. RUMOR WAS  
YOU'D DISAPPEARED  
INTO THE HUMAN  
WORLD.

ALWAYS  
CALM,  
EH?



YOUR HEART  
RATE'S BACK  
TO NORMAL.

I HAVE TO  
IMAGINE EVEN  
YOU HAD A HARD  
TIME WITH THEIR  
RELENTLESS  
TRICKERY.



THE HUMAN  
WORLD IS THE  
UNDERWORLD'S  
TERRITORY.

UH...

UNH...

WAKE UP.



A...

WHO PAID  
YOU TO COME  
AFTER ME?

IT WILL. BUT I  
HAVE ONE  
LAST  
QUESTION.

PLEASE...  
LET IT  
END...

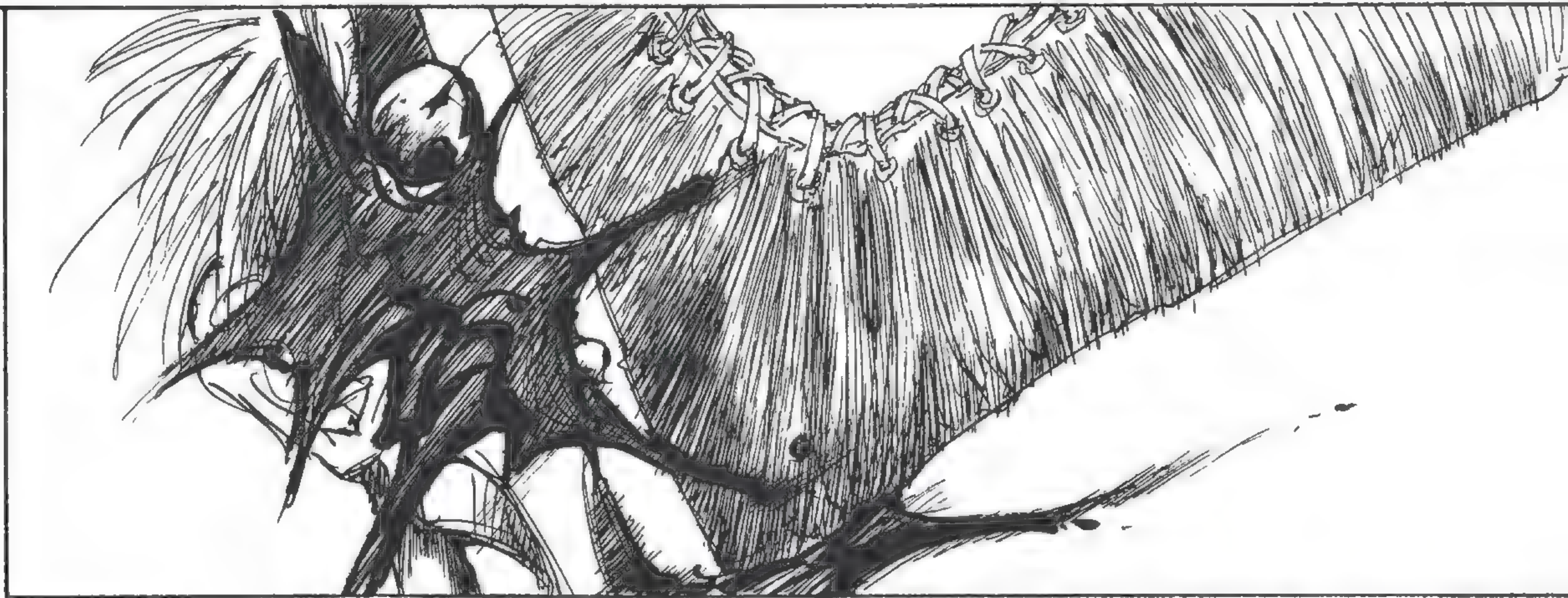
KILL...  
ME...



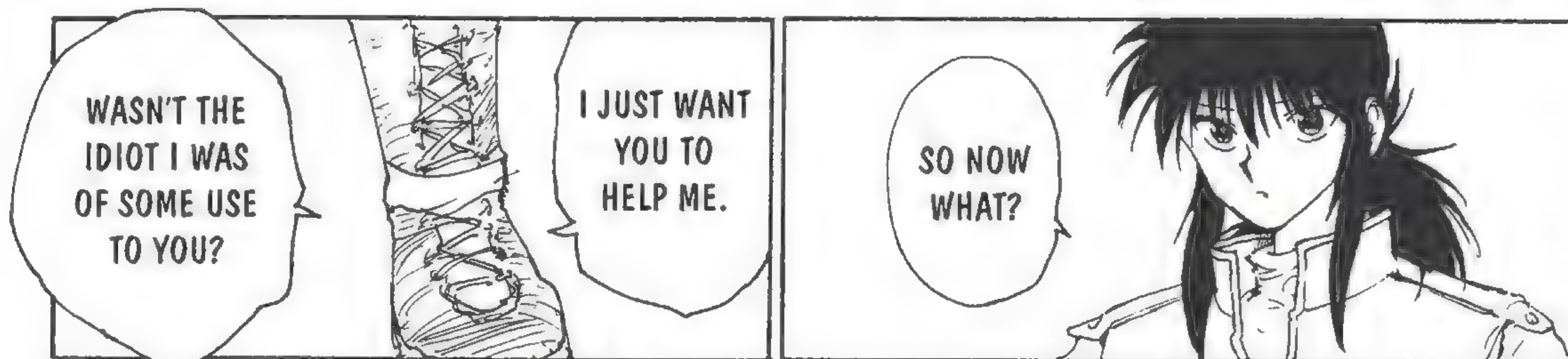


...A DEMON  
FOX...  
WITH SILVER  
HAIR...

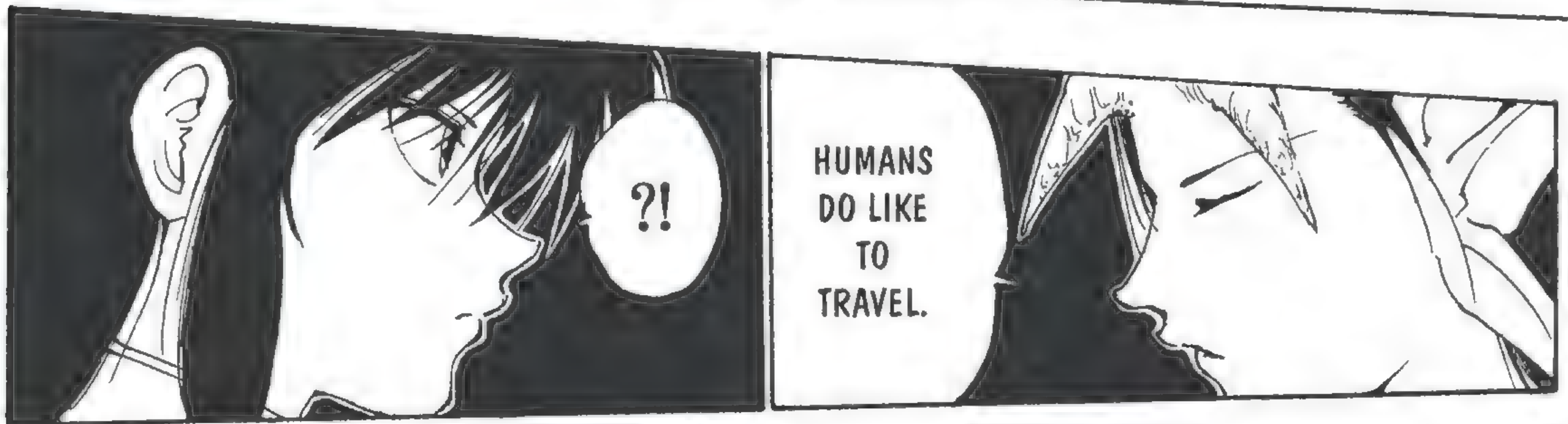
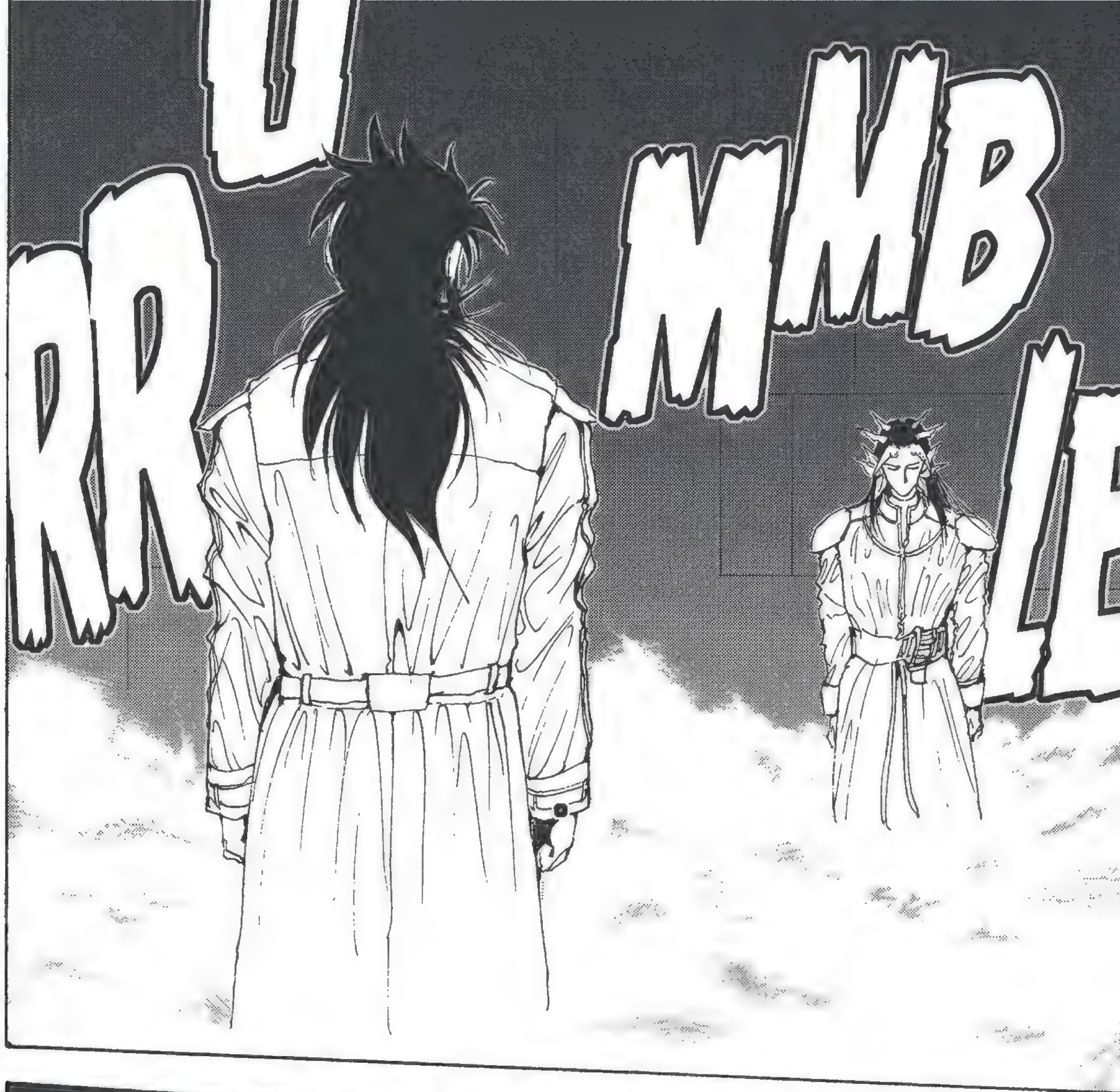
...AND THE MOST  
DREADFUL,  
ICE-COLD EYES.





















# HOW THEY SPENT THEIR YEAR: KURAMA, PART 2







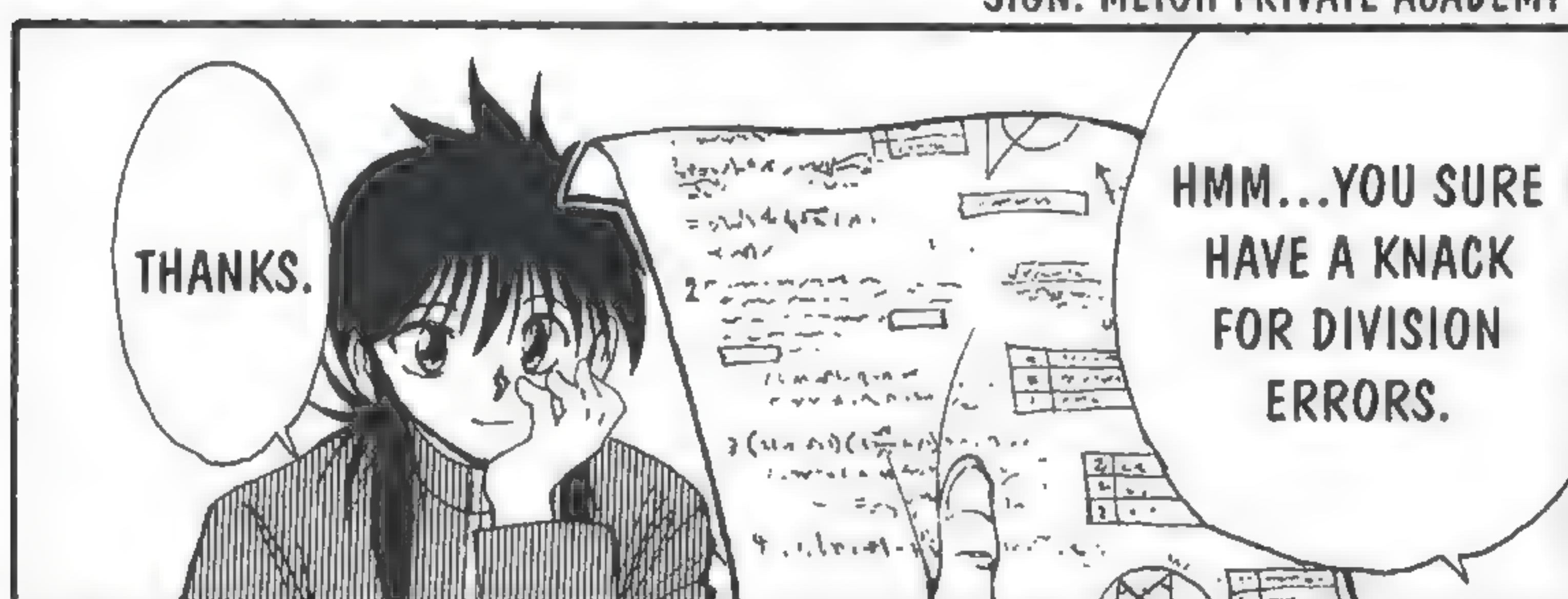
SIGN: MEIOH PRIVATE ACADEMY

OKAY, LET  
ME SEE  
YOUR  
ANSWERS.

1: YU KAITO - 493

2: SHUICHI MINAMINO - 490

3: SATOKO SAITO - 480



THANKS.

HMM...YOU SURE  
HAVE A KNACK  
FOR DIVISION  
ERRORS.



KIND  
OF.

ARE YOU HAVING  
TROUBLE WITH  
ANYTHING ELSE?





VERY.

YOU  
SERIOUS?

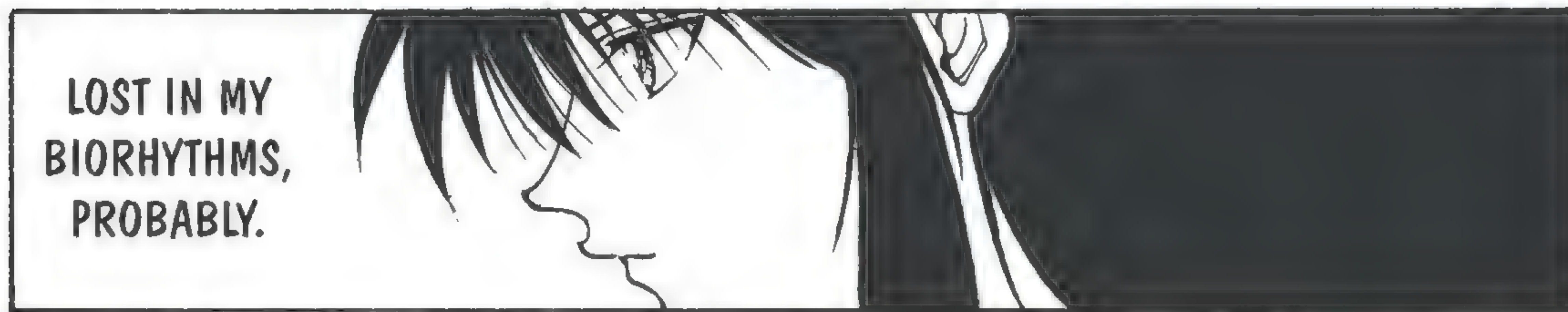


WHERE'S  
THE USUAL  
GRIM  
RESOLVE?

YOU DON'T  
SEEM  
BOTHERED.



LOOKS LIKE I'LL  
HAVE TO FIGHT  
YUSUKE AND  
HIEI.



LOST IN MY  
BIORHYTHMS,  
PROBABLY.



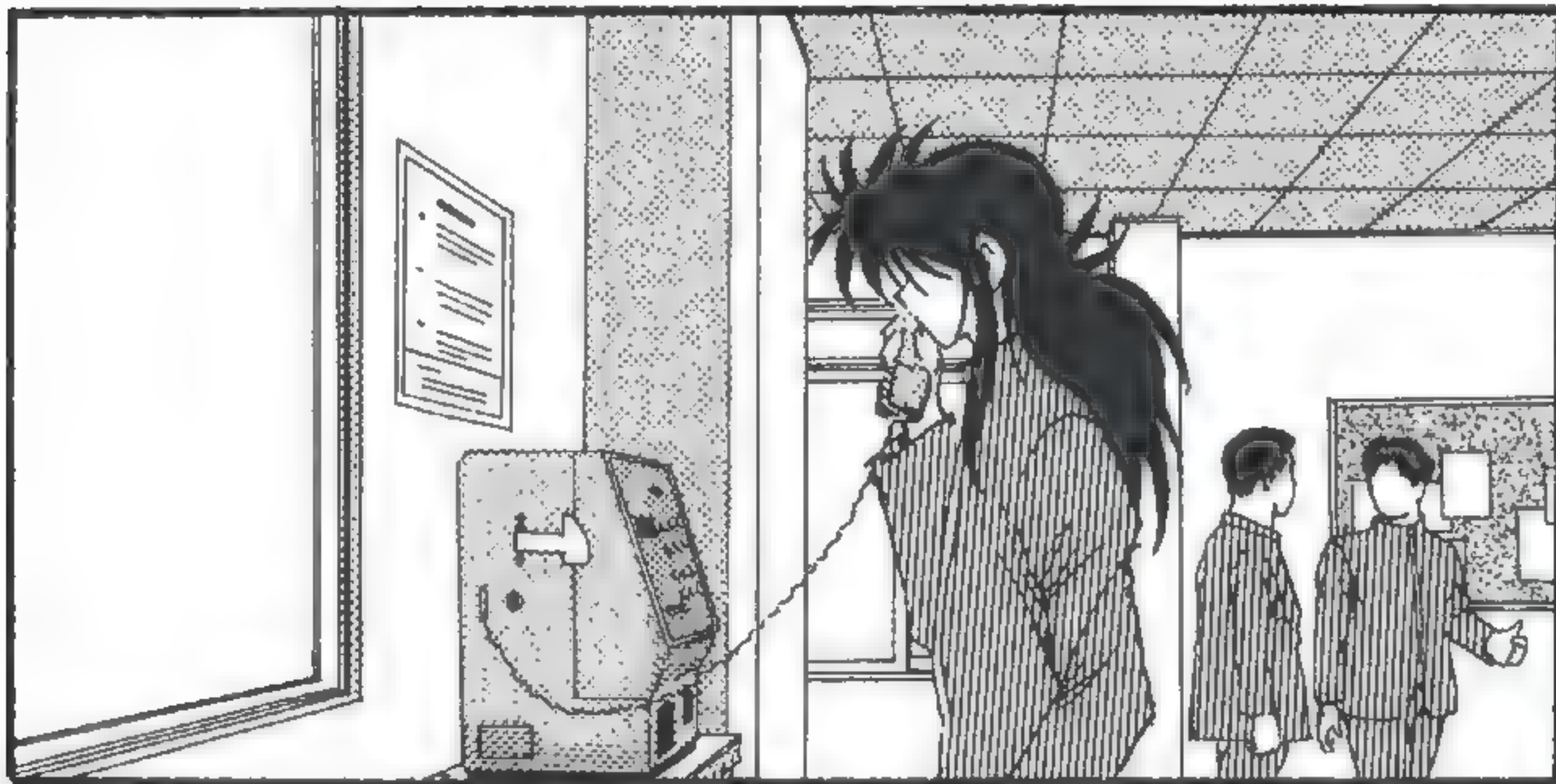
THE CYCLES SEEM  
TO BE GETTING  
SHORTER.  
AND KURAMA  
SOMETIMES REARS  
UP WHEN  
I LOSE MY TEMPER.  
IT'S GOTTEN  
WORSE SINCE  
I SAW YOMI.

ABOUT ONCE A  
MONTH, SINCE  
THE DARK  
TOURNAMENT,  
I'VE FELT VERY  
MUCH LIKE  
KURAMA, EVEN  
WHILE MY BODY  
IS SHUICHI.  
I FEEL A RISING  
BELLIGERENCE.

BEEP







MY NEW  
LITTLE  
BROTHER.

A PAGE  
FROM A  
GIRL?

HE LOVES  
PLAYING WITH  
GADGETS LIKE  
PAGERS.



I WAS IN THE  
AREA AND  
THOUGHT I'D  
WALK HOME  
WITH YOU.

HEY,  
SHUICHI!



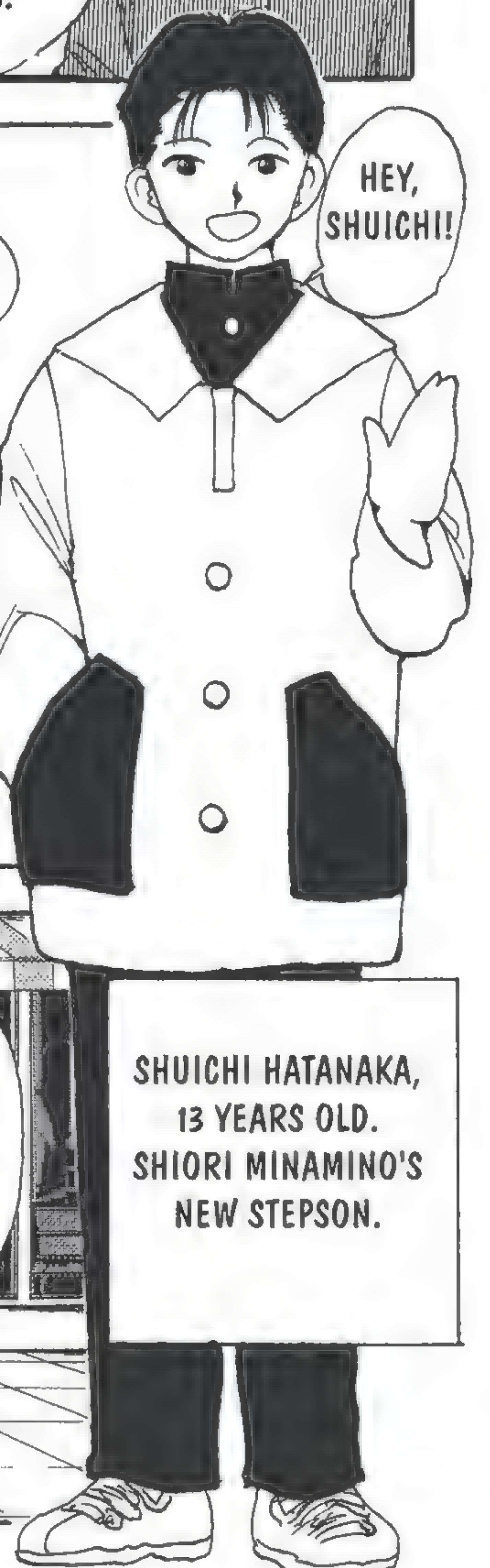
WATCH IT.  
I ONLY PUT UP  
WITH YOU  
BECAUSE I'VE  
GOT NO  
CHOICE.



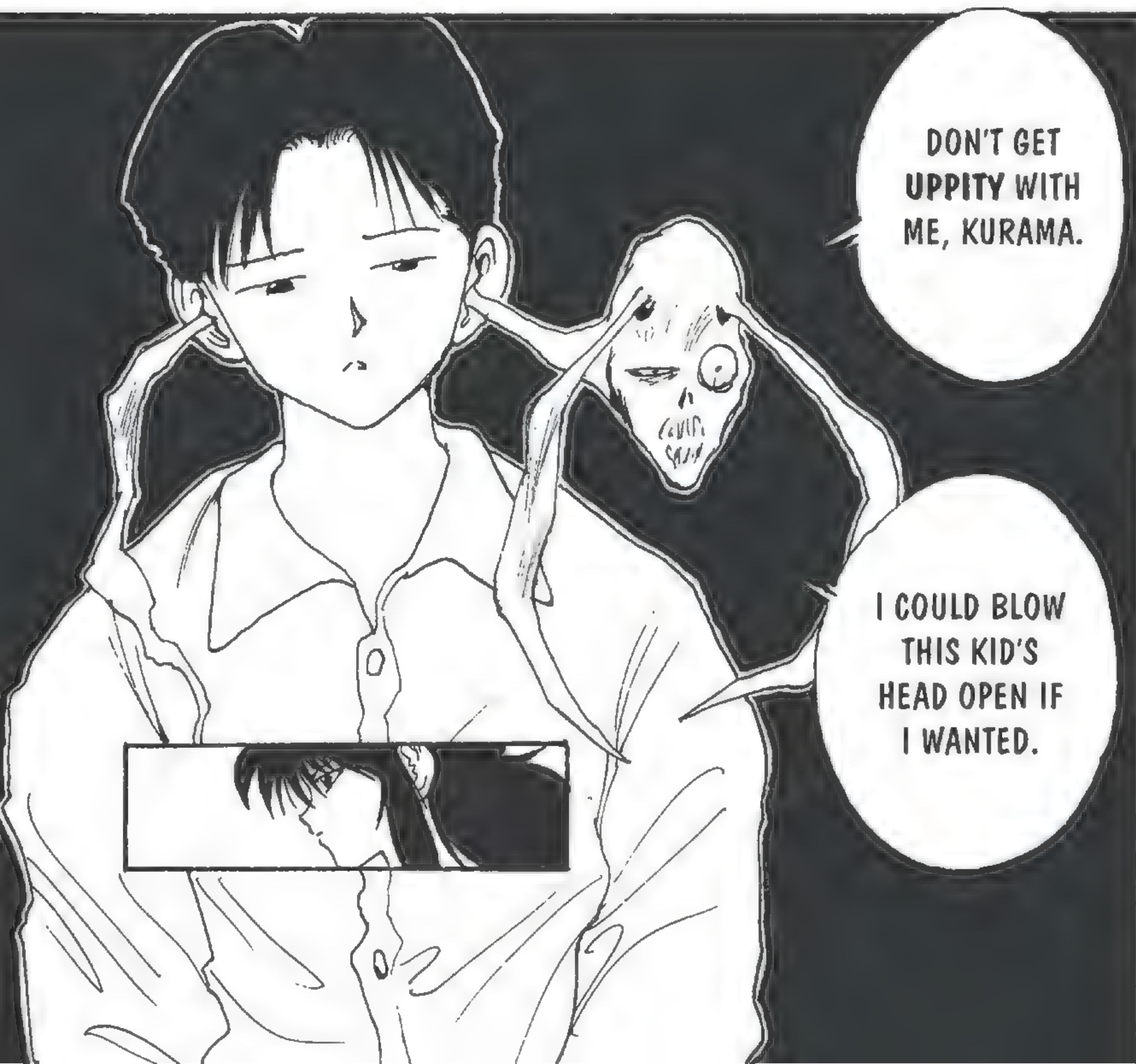
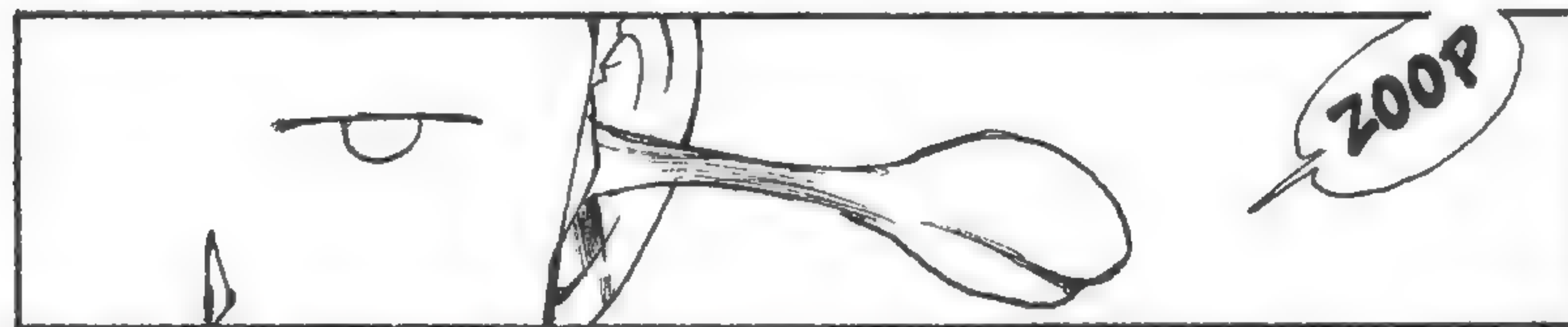
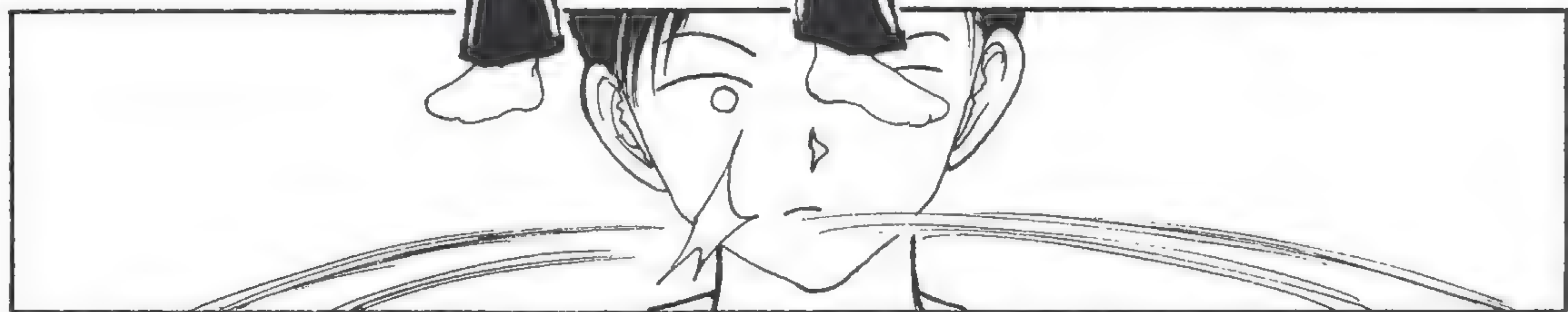
NO ONE  
FIGURES  
YOU'LL MAKE  
A RUN  
FOR IT.

WHAT'S THE  
BEEF? I'M JUST  
DOING MY JOB.

SHUICHI HATANAKA,  
13 YEARS OLD.  
SHIORI MINAMINO'S  
NEW STEPSON.



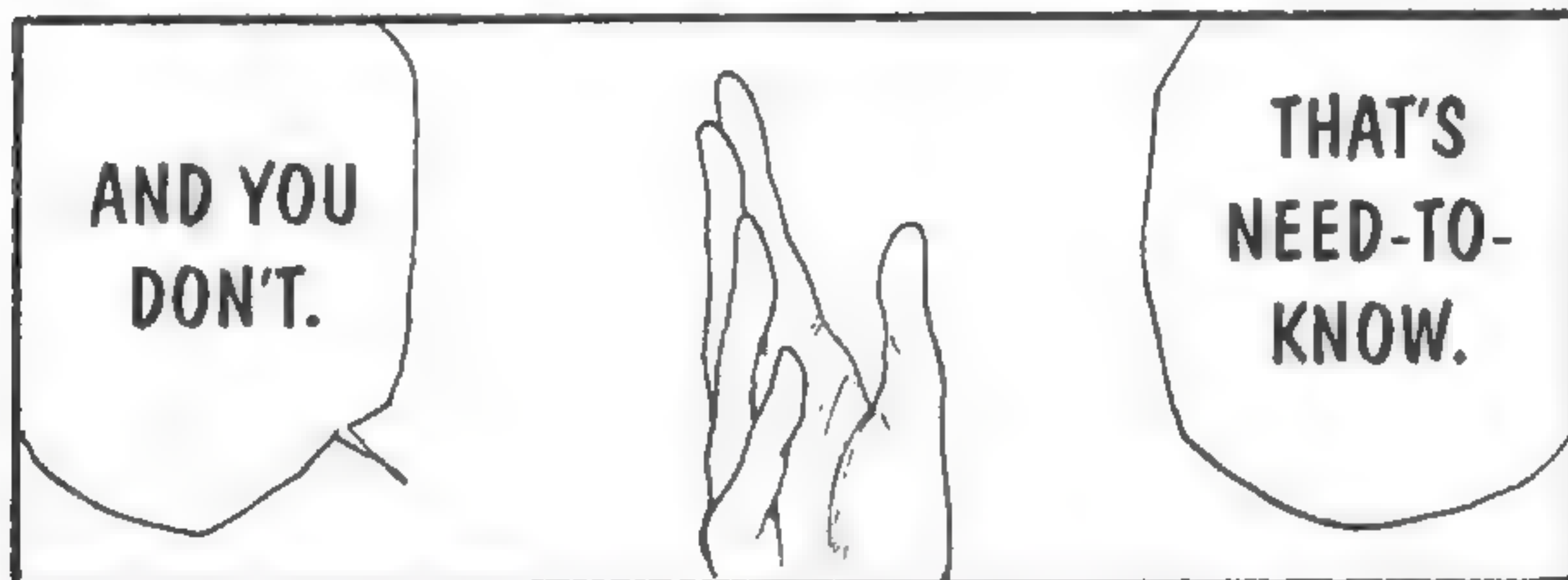
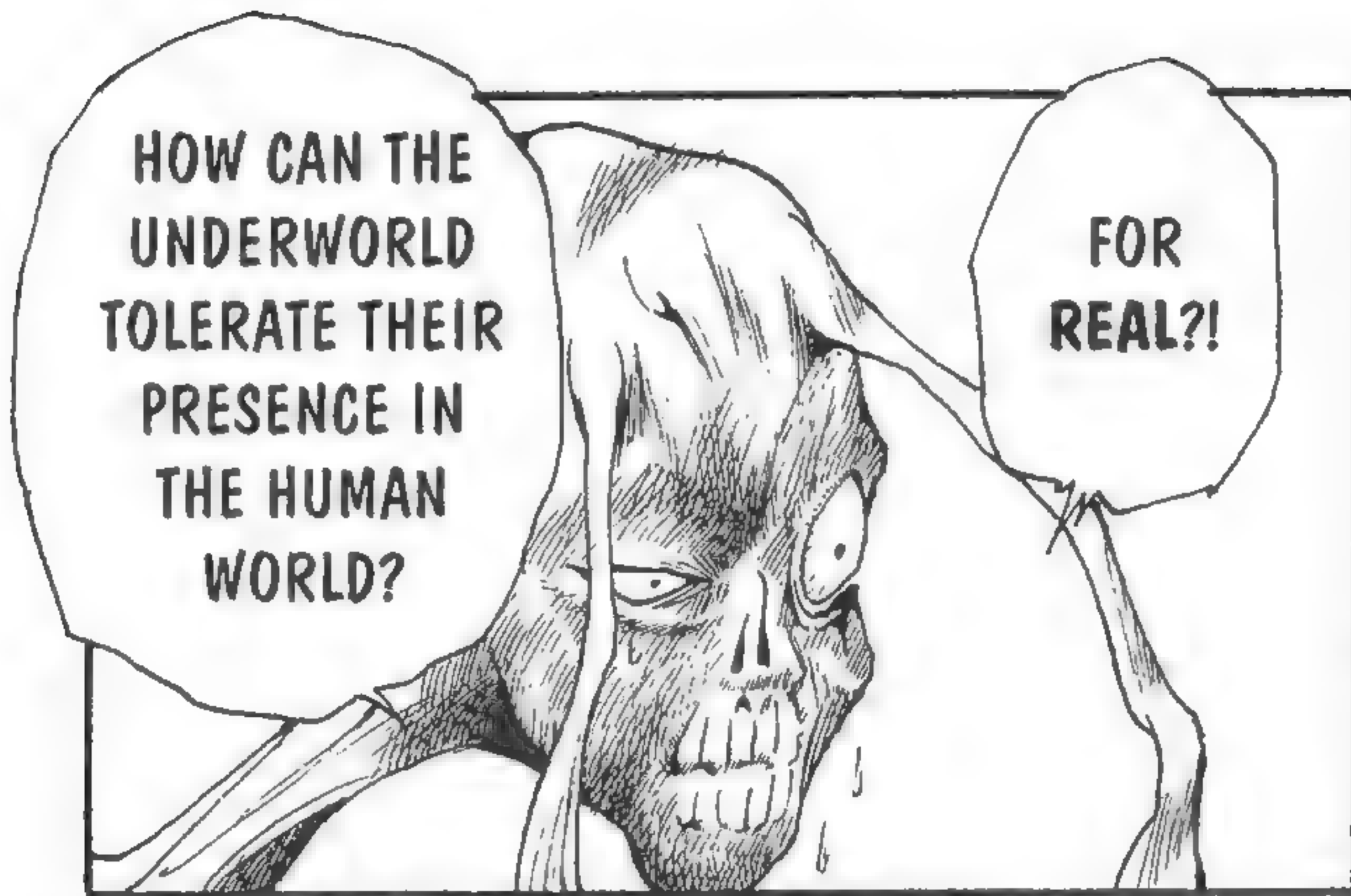




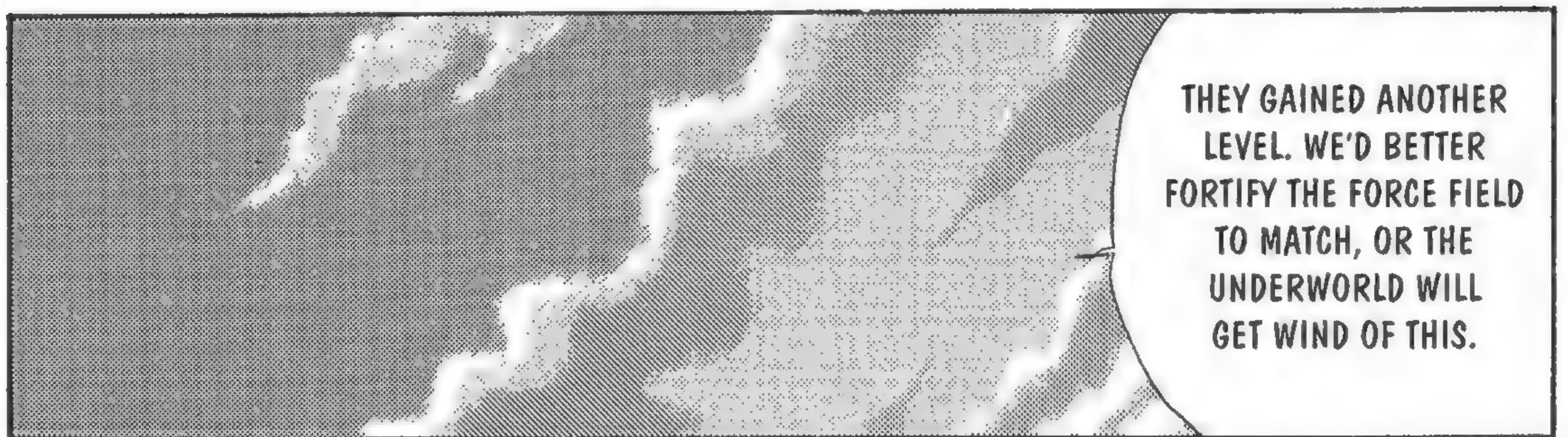




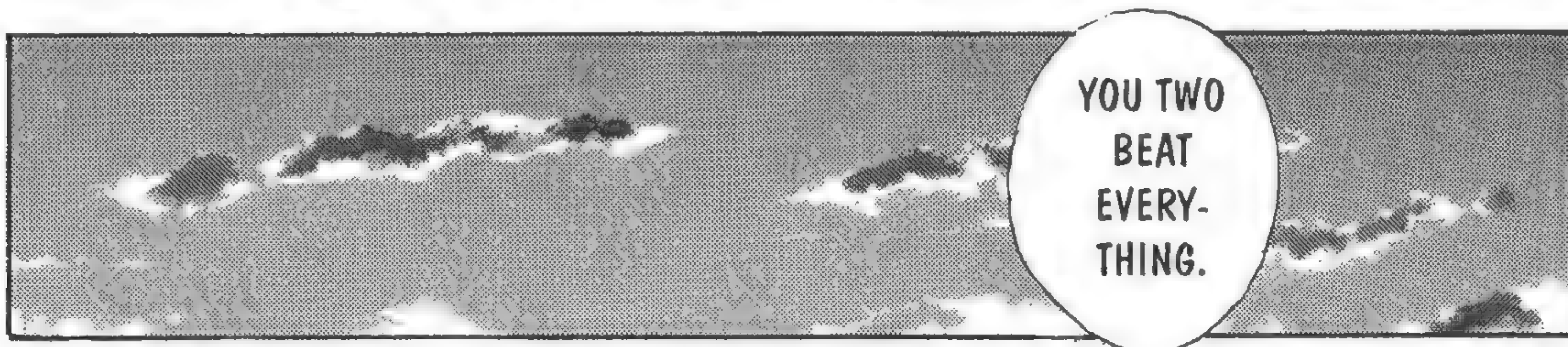
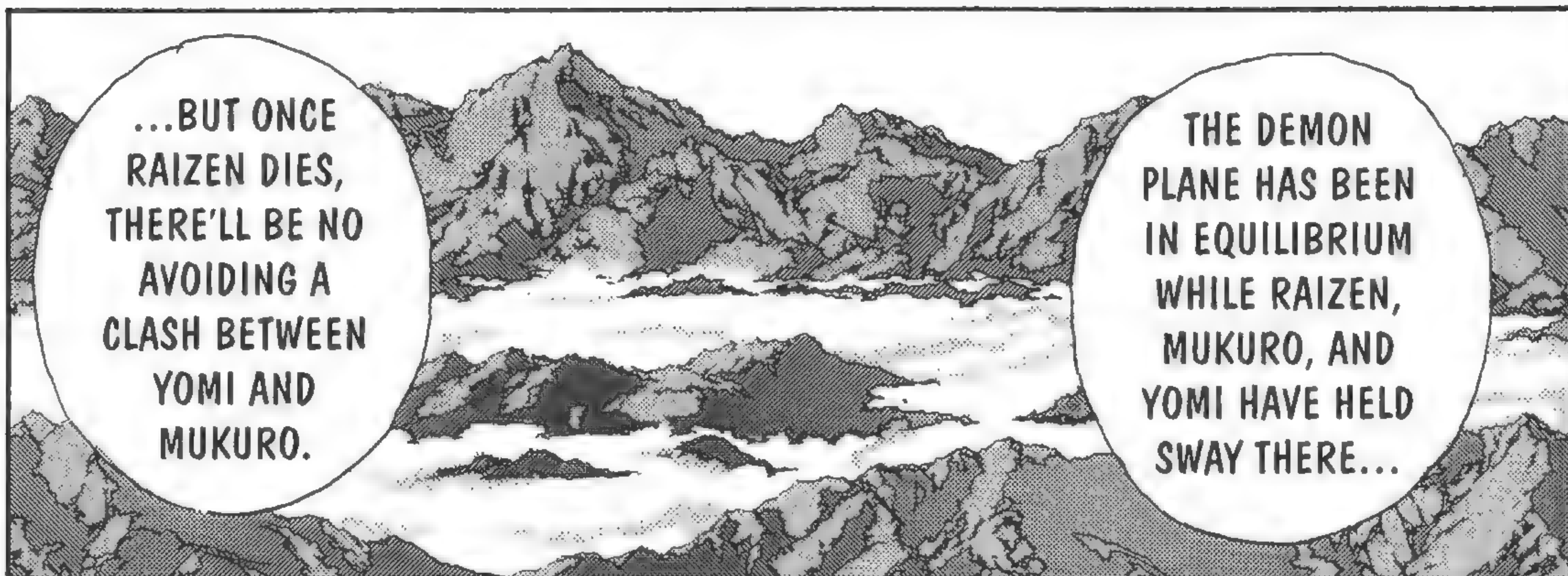
















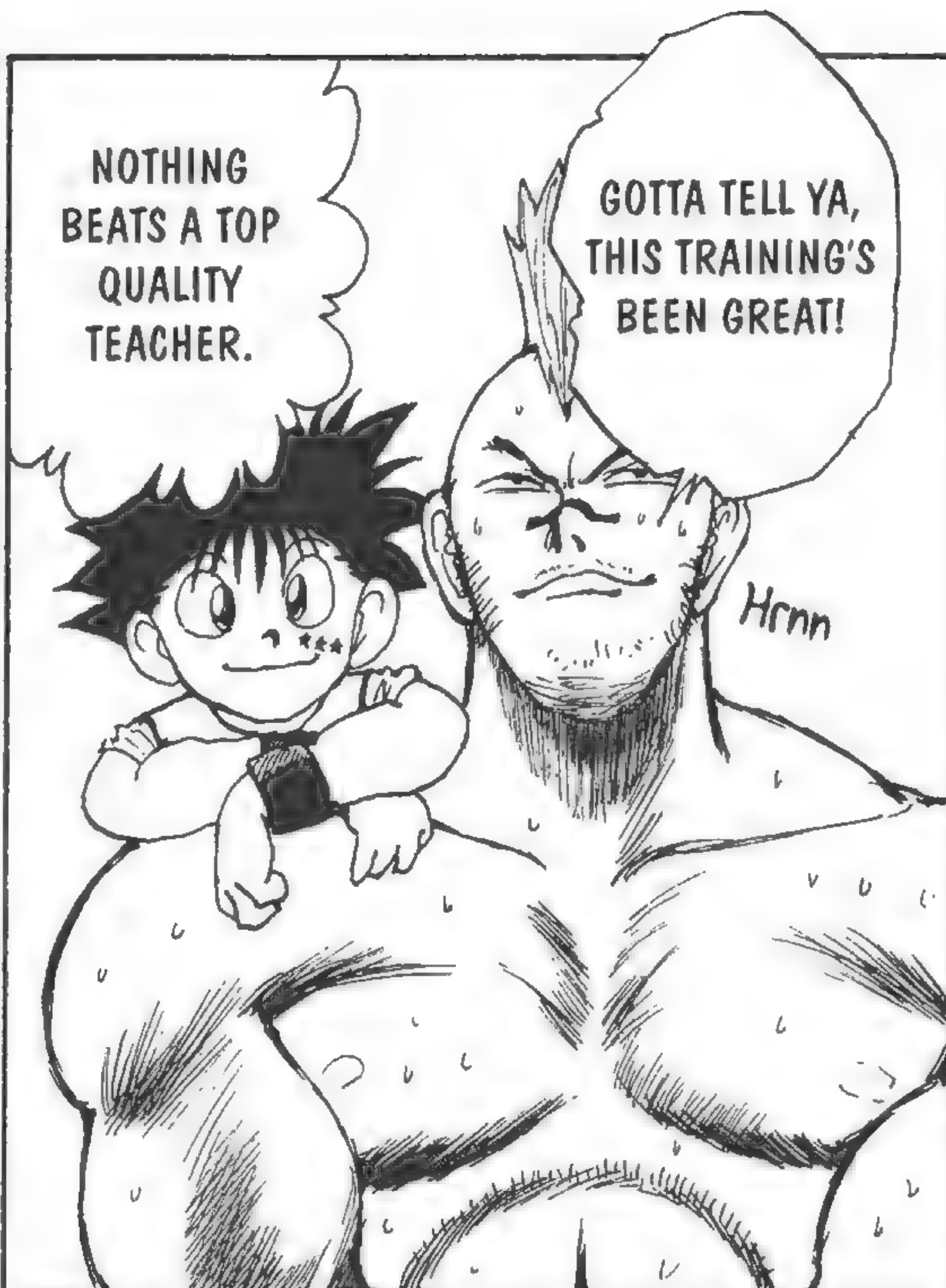
HEY,  
KURAMA.





...I'D LOVE  
TO FIGHT  
HIM AGAIN.

WE'RE NOT  
AT YUSUKE'S  
LEVEL,  
BUT...



NOTHING  
BEATS A TOP  
QUALITY  
TEACHER.

GOTTA TELL YA,  
THIS TRAINING'S  
BEEN GREAT!

Hrnn



WHOA, JIN.  
DON'T GET  
SUICIDAL  
JUST YET.



Hmph...

YOU HAVE BROUGHT  
MY WITHERED  
DREAMS BACK  
INTO BLOOM. MAY  
I PROVE WORTHY  
OF THIS GREAT  
OPPORTUNITY!



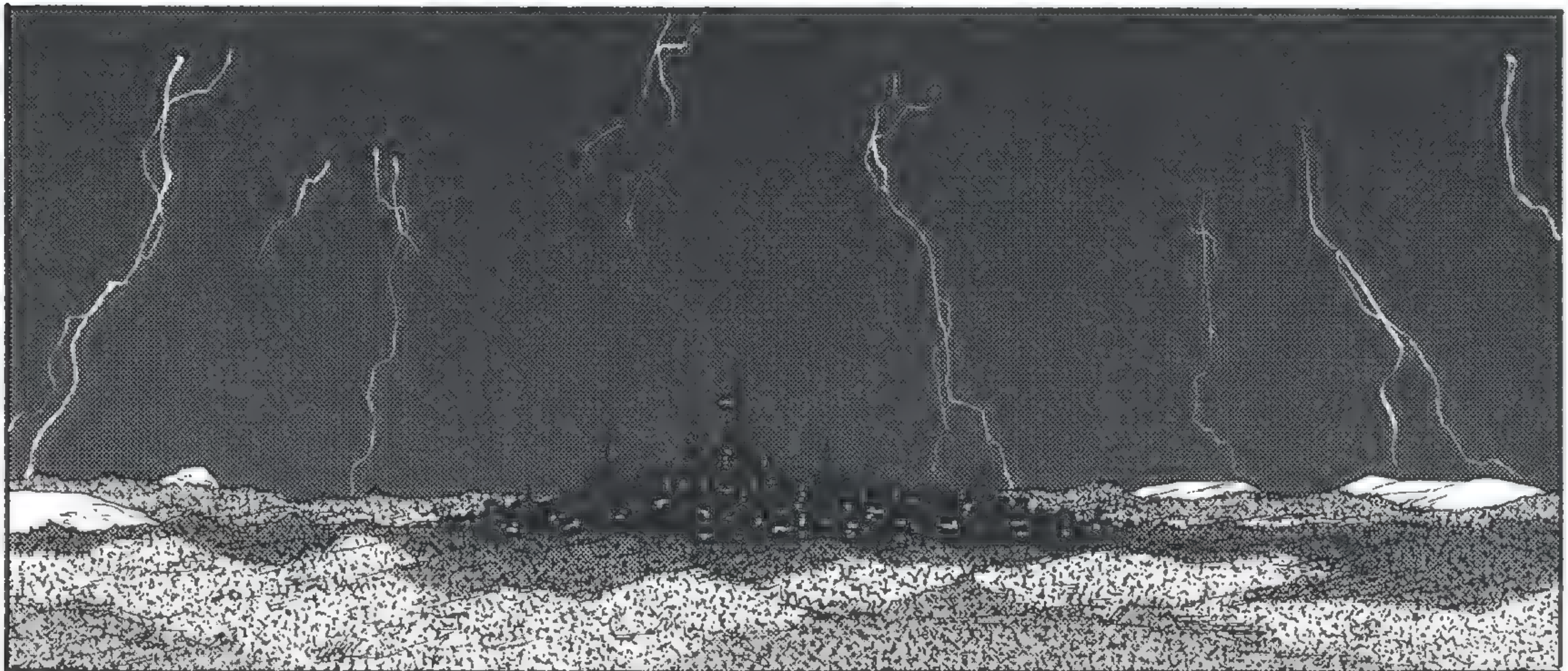
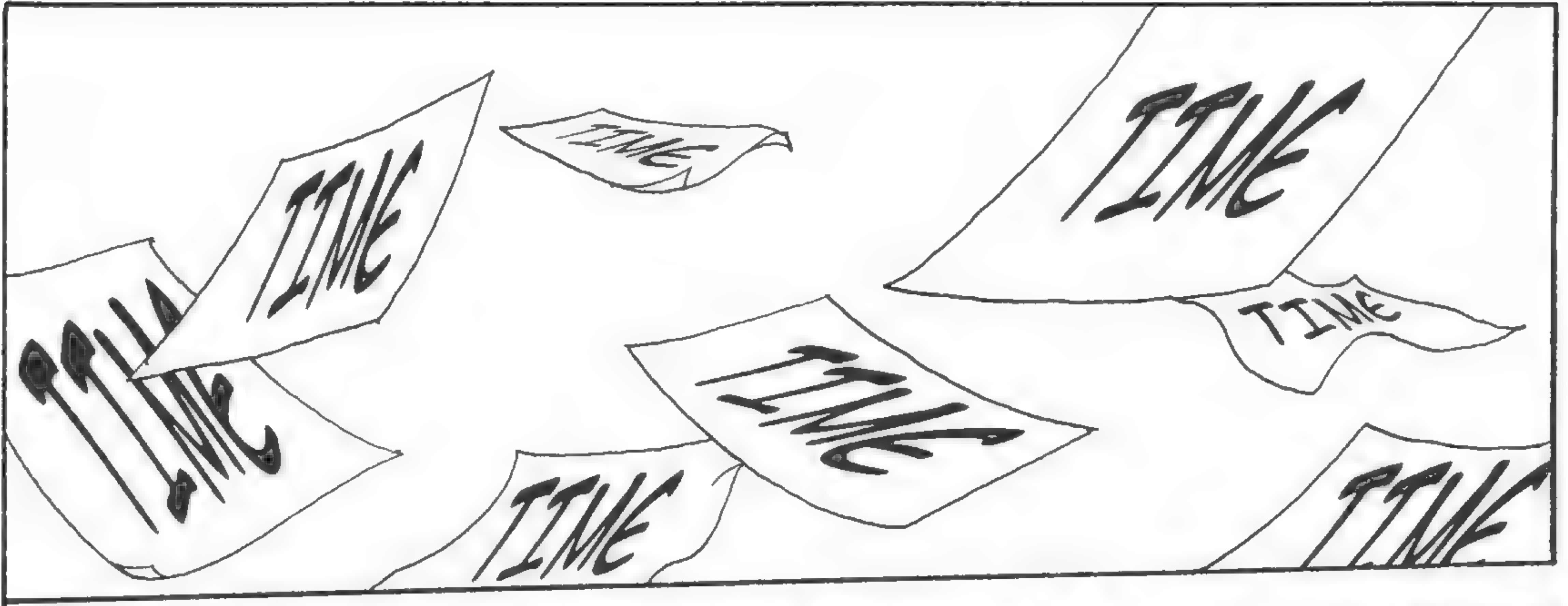
YOU  
BETCHA!

CAN YOU  
DOUBLE  
YOUR TP IN  
SIX MONTHS?

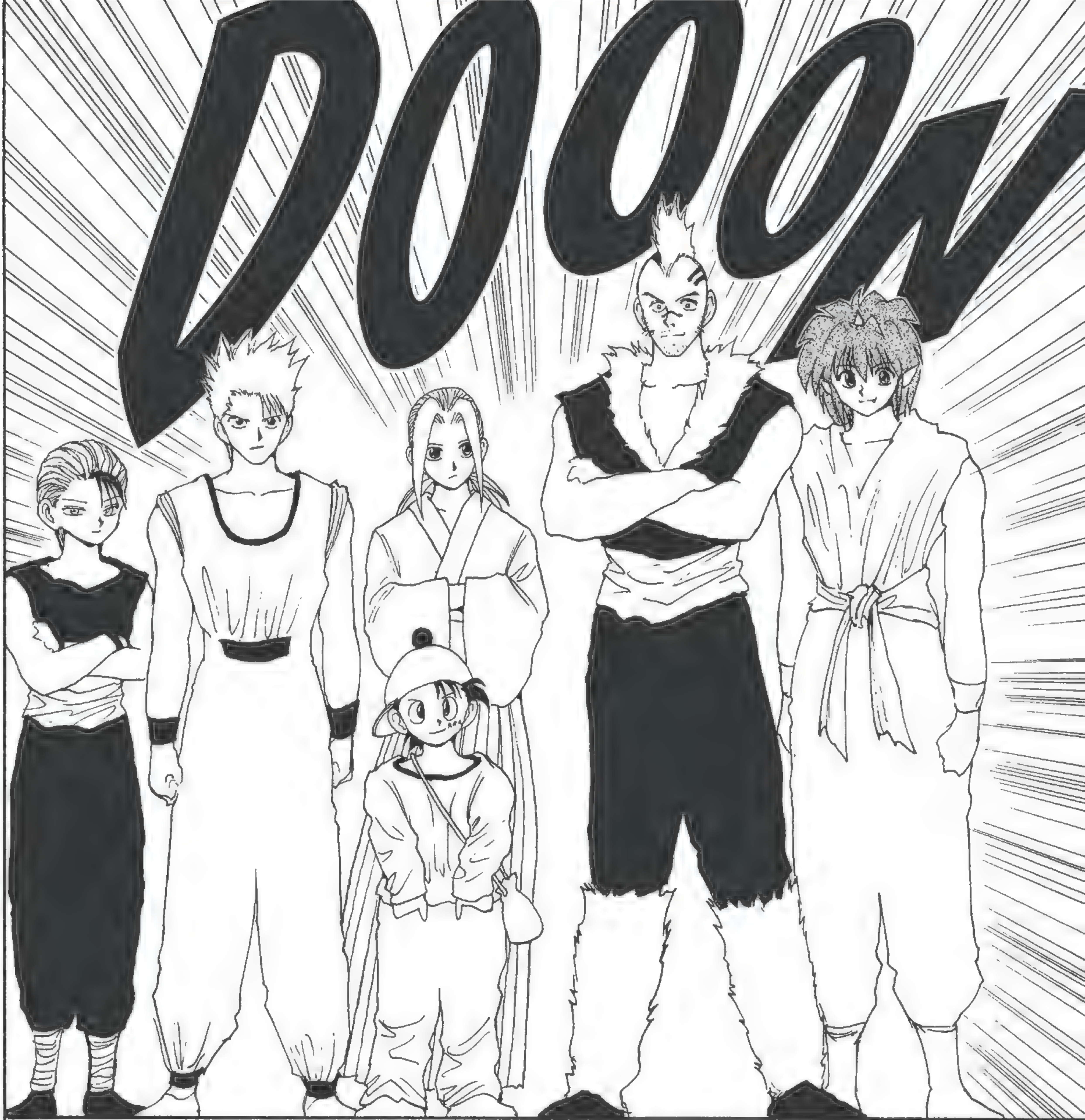












WHAT DIRE MAGIC DID YOU USE?!

THAT'S JUST INCREDIBLE!

THAT'S ALL.

GOOD FOOD AND EXERCISE.

"All"?! We nearly died!

"Good"?! Those herbs?! Blech!

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

ALL SIX... THEIR TPS ARE OVER 100,000!!







THAT  
JERK'S ALL  
THEORY AND  
NO PRACTICE.

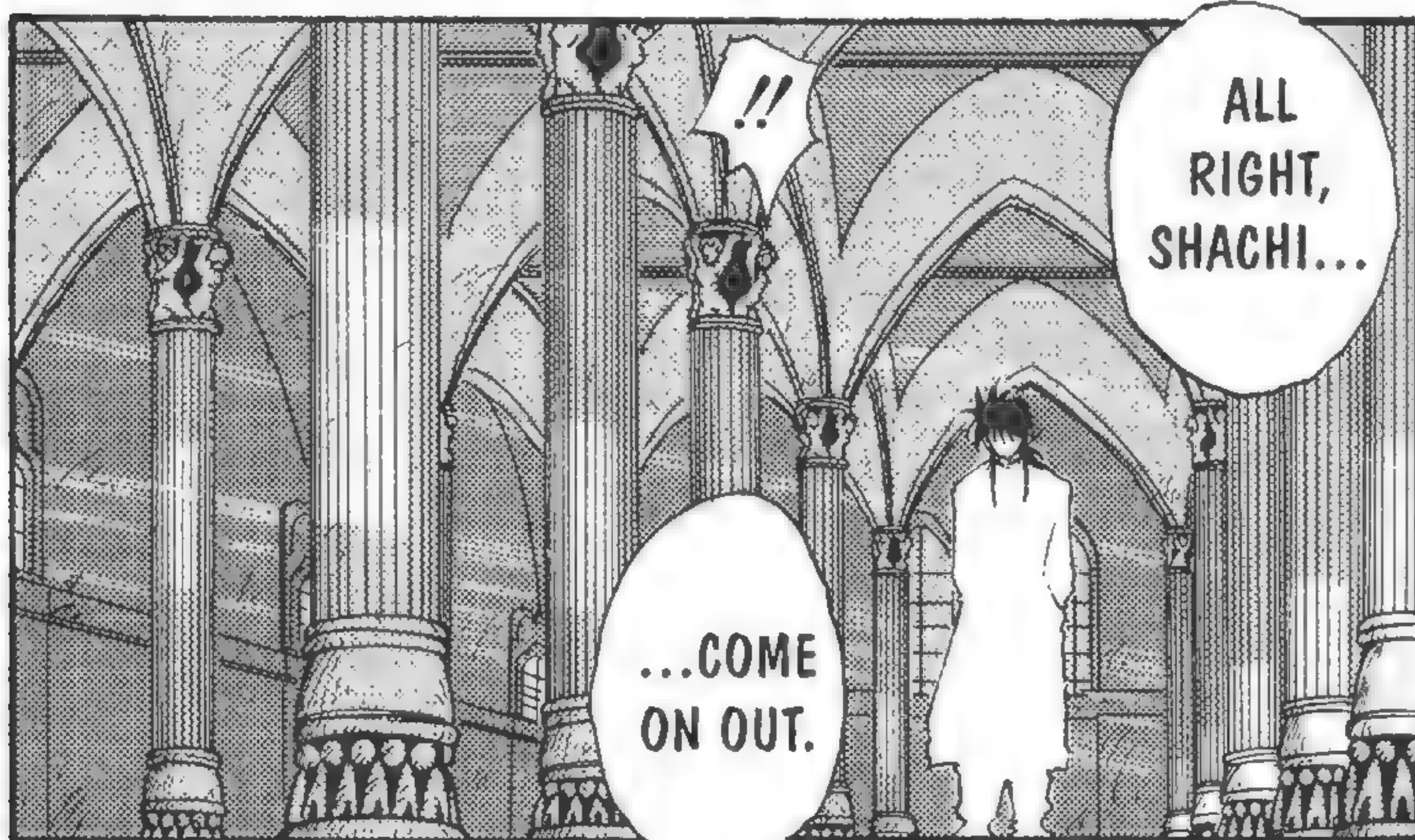
HIS TP IS  
UNDER 2000.



...YOU'RE  
DEAD!!

!!  
ALL  
RIGHT,  
SHACHI...

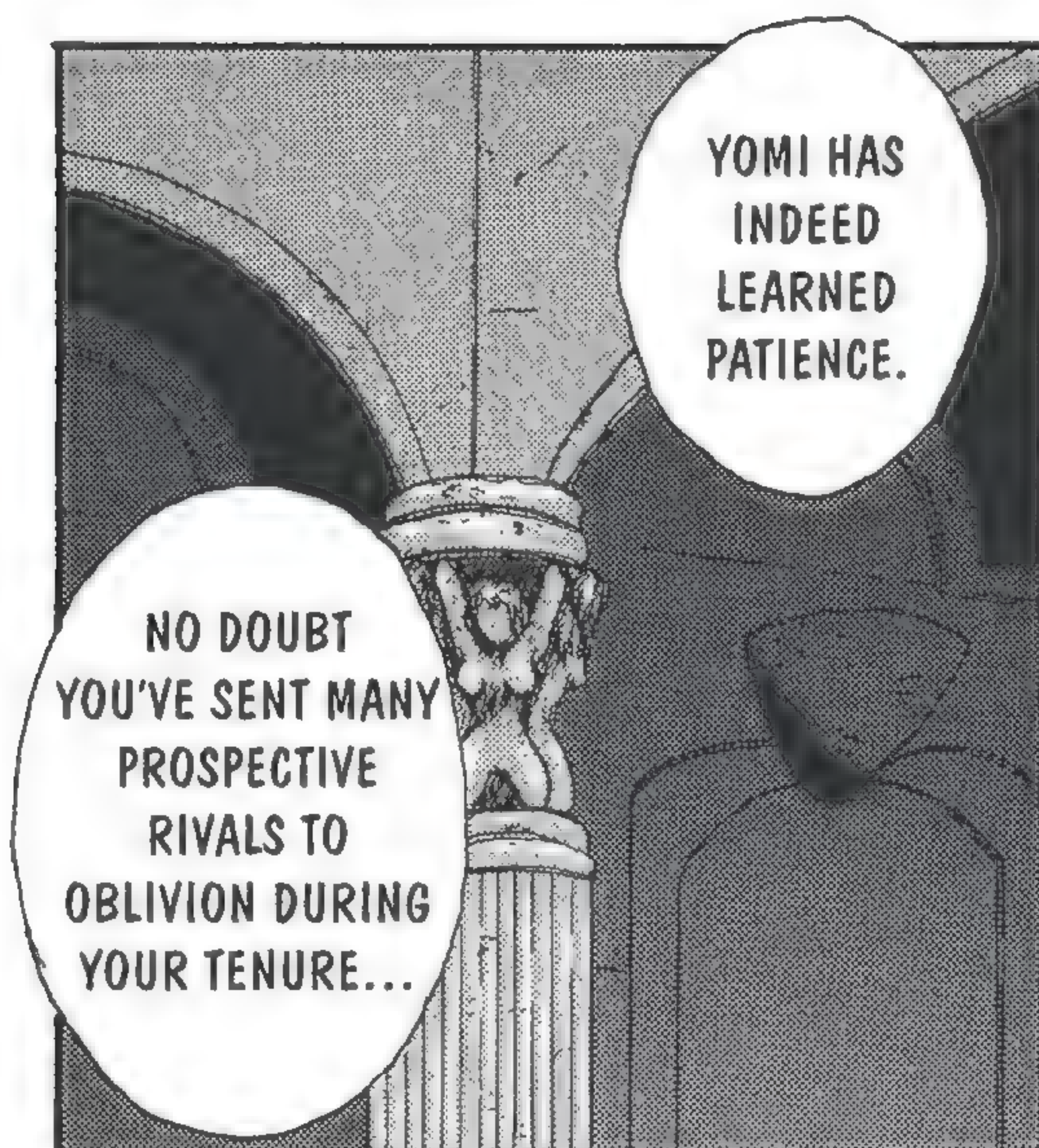
...COME  
ON OUT.



L O O M







YOMI HAS  
INDEED  
LEARNED  
PATIENCE.

NO DOUBT  
YOU'VE SENT MANY  
PROSPECTIVE  
RIVALS TO  
OBLIVION DURING  
YOUR TENURE...

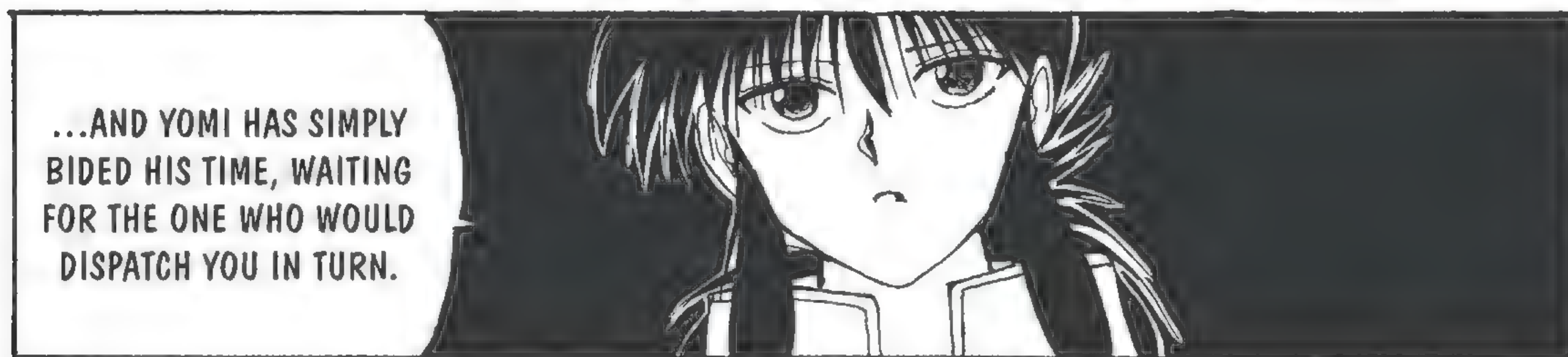


YOU RISK  
PUNISHMENT.



...TO DISPOSE  
OF EVIDENCE.

I HAVE  
WAYS...



...AND YOMI HAS SIMPLY  
BIDED HIS TIME, WAITING  
FOR THE ONE WHO WOULD  
DISPATCH YOU IN TURN.



BUT ENJOY  
THE FIGHT.  
TOODLES.

NO CAN DO,  
SHACHI. I'VE  
RECONSIDERED  
MY POSITION.



KARA! IT'S  
GOIN' DOWN!  
WHEN I GIVE  
THE SIGNAL,  
KILL HIM!

LIKE  
THAT'LL  
HAPPEN!



HOSTAGES  
ARE A  
LOT OF  
BOTHER...

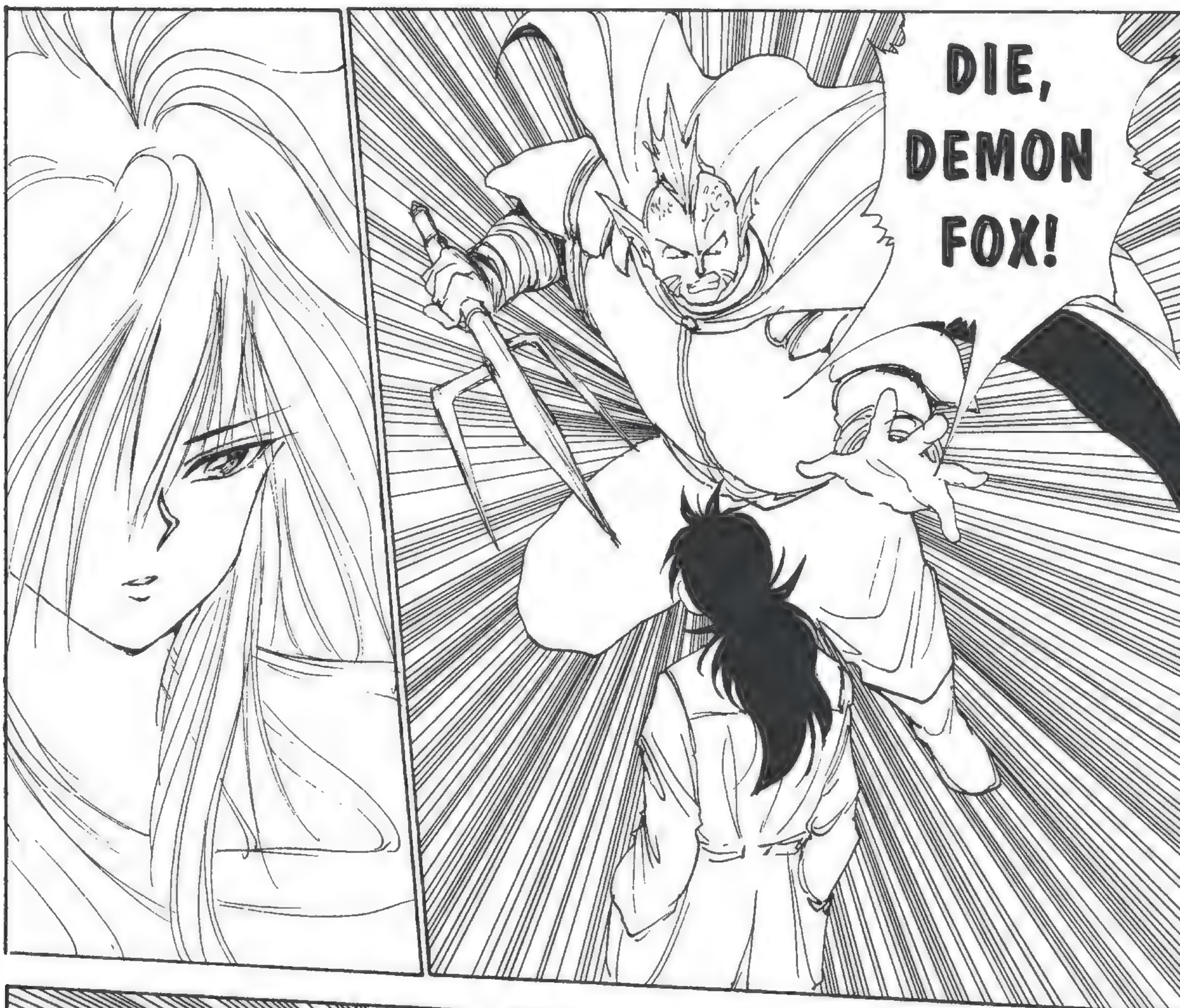
...THAT'S WHY  
YOMI PREFERS  
THREATS.  
THEY'RE MORE  
EFFICIENT.



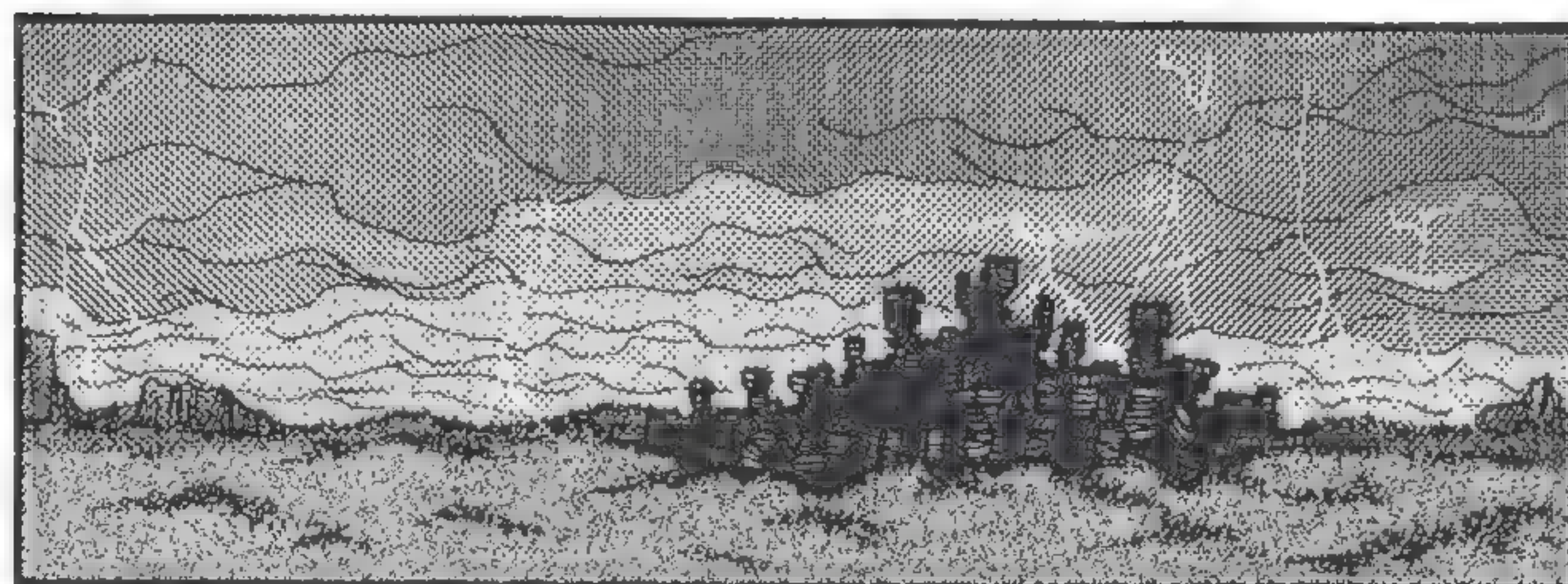
KARA!  
HELLO?  
HELLO?!

WHATTA  
YOU  
MEAN?!

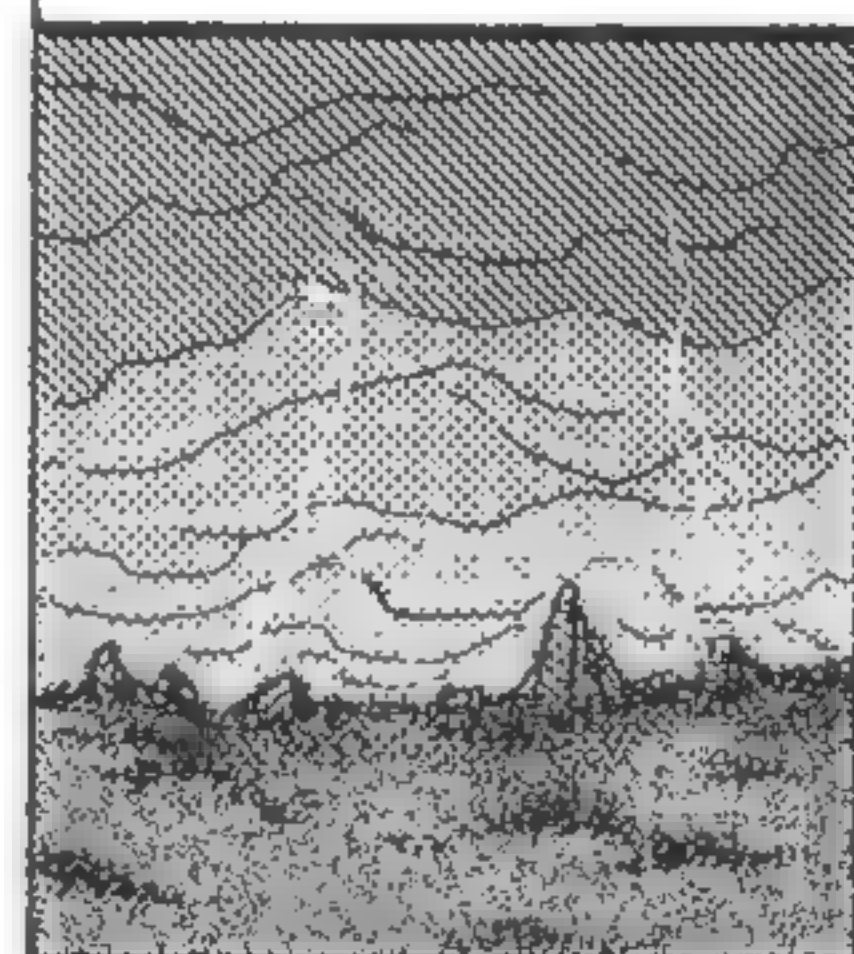








AND SO KURAMA  
BECAME YOMI'S  
SECOND IN  
COMMAND AND  
MILITARY ATTACHÉ.

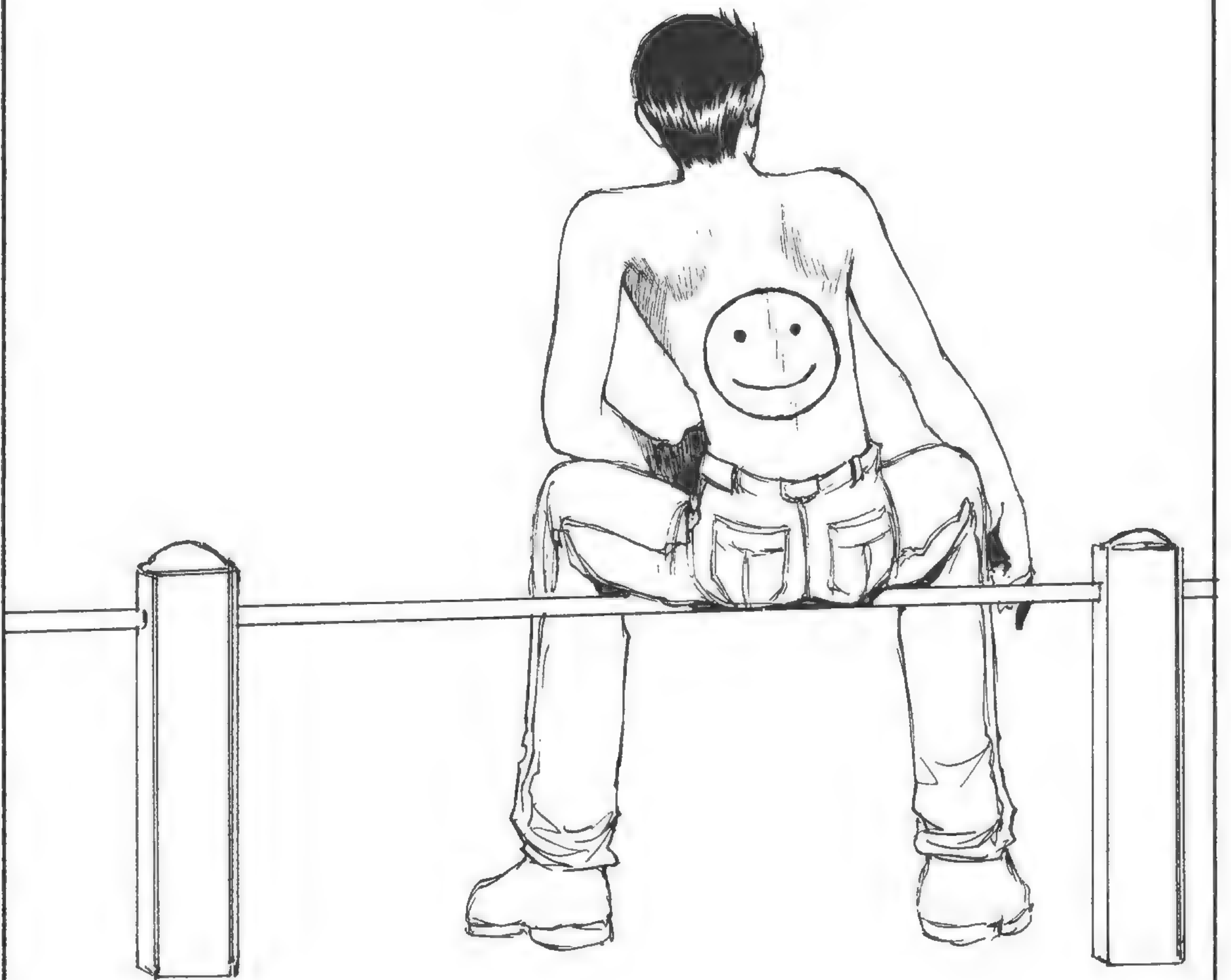








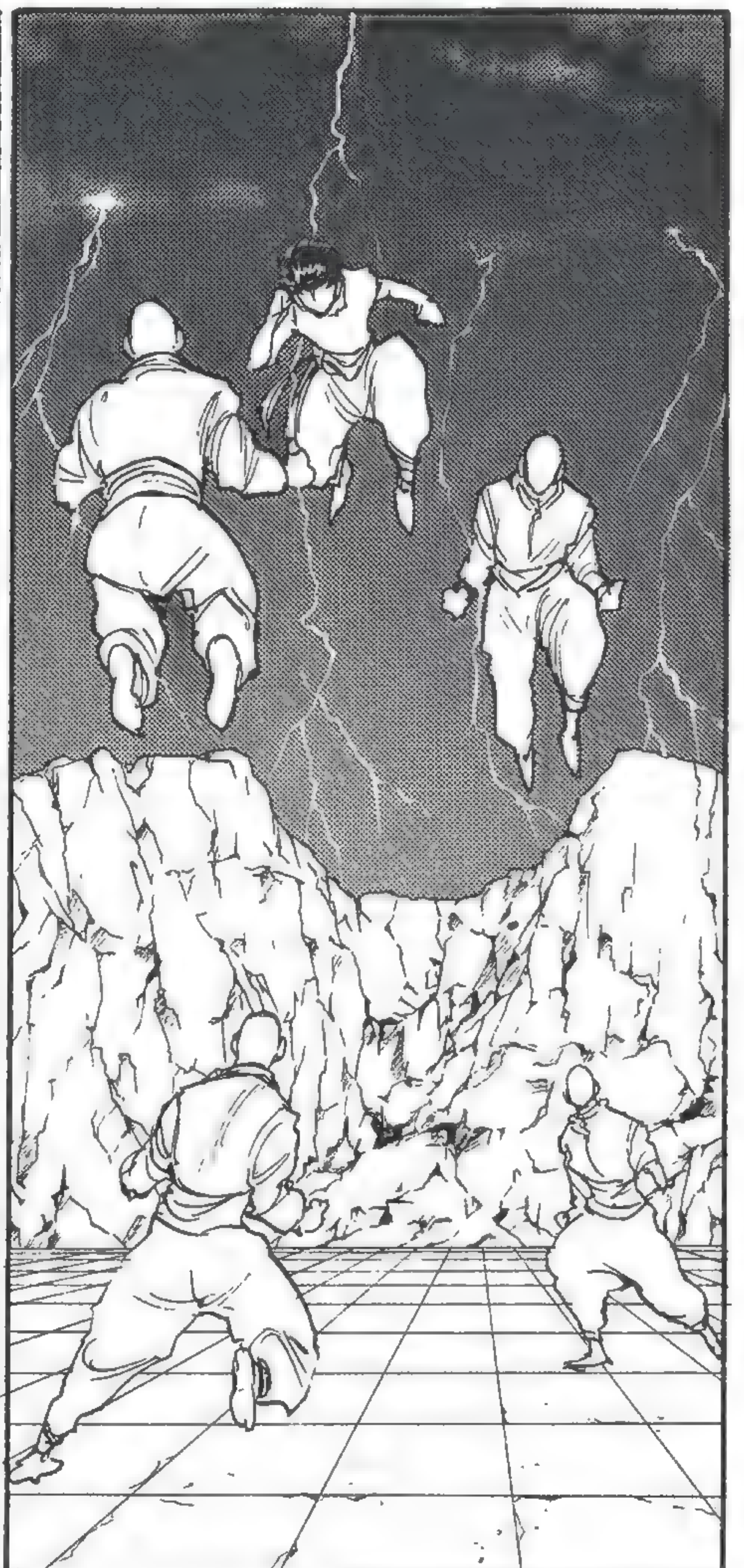
# RAIZEN'S LAST WISHES



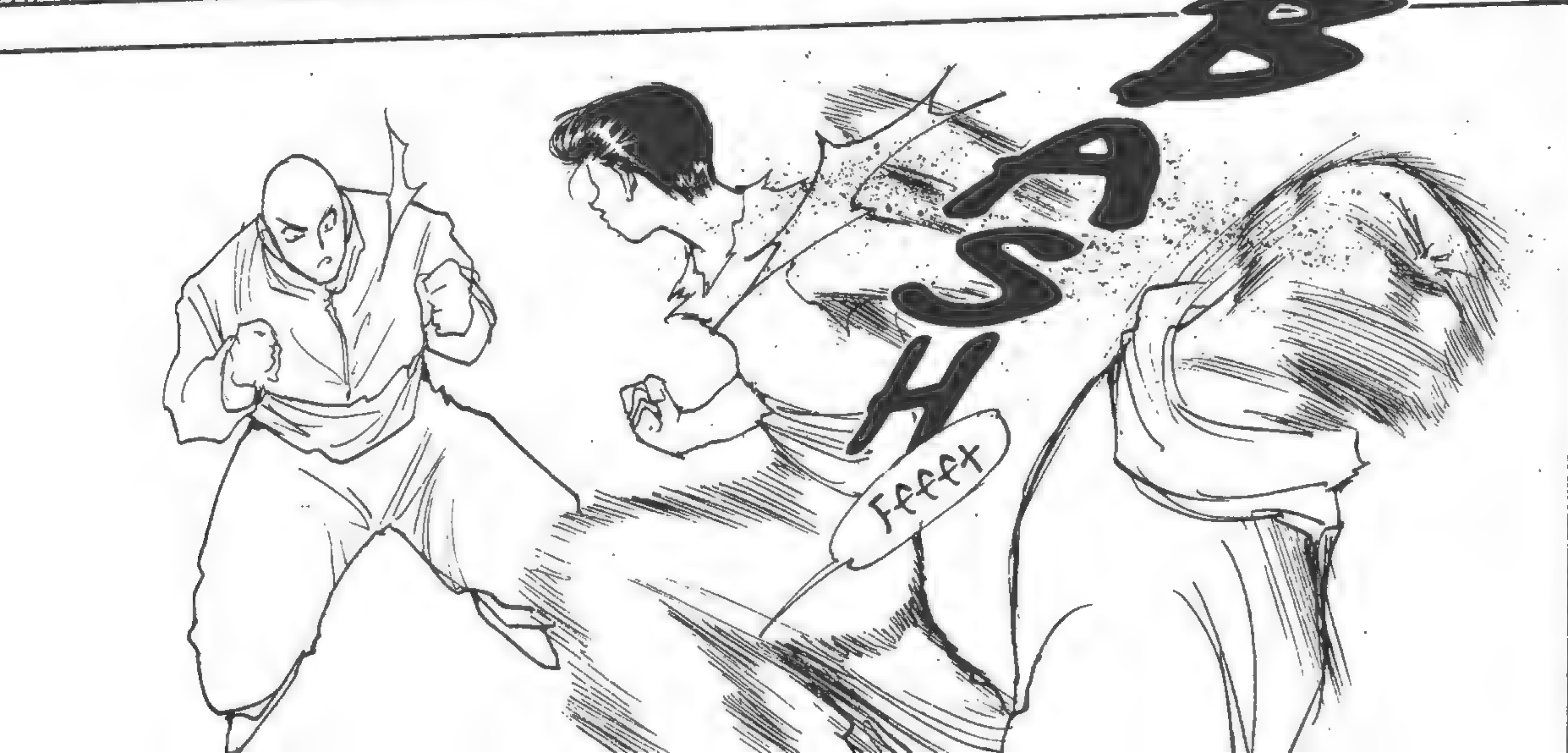
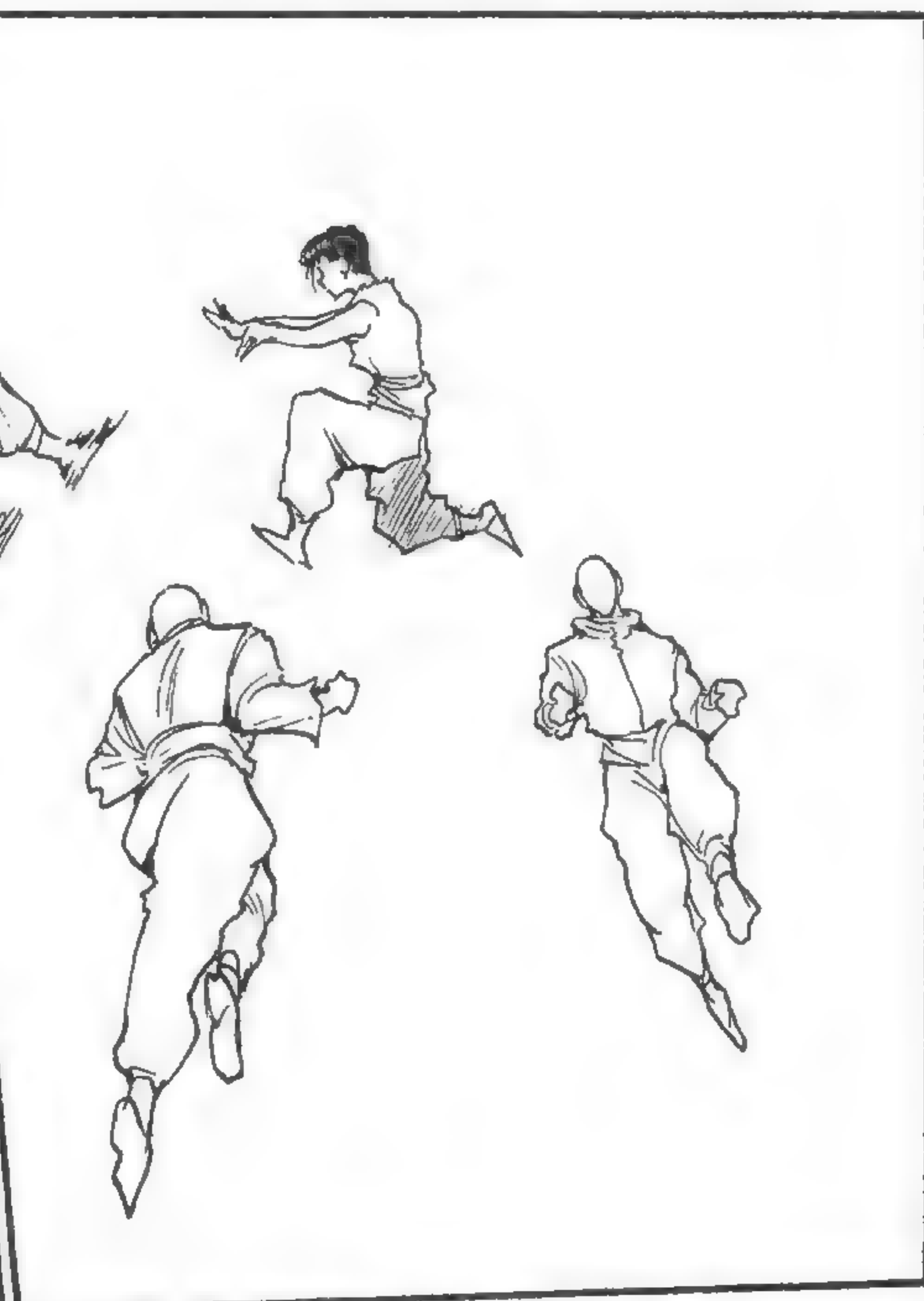




**BAM BAM BAM** *Handwritten scribbles* **BAM BAM BAM**









FWISH

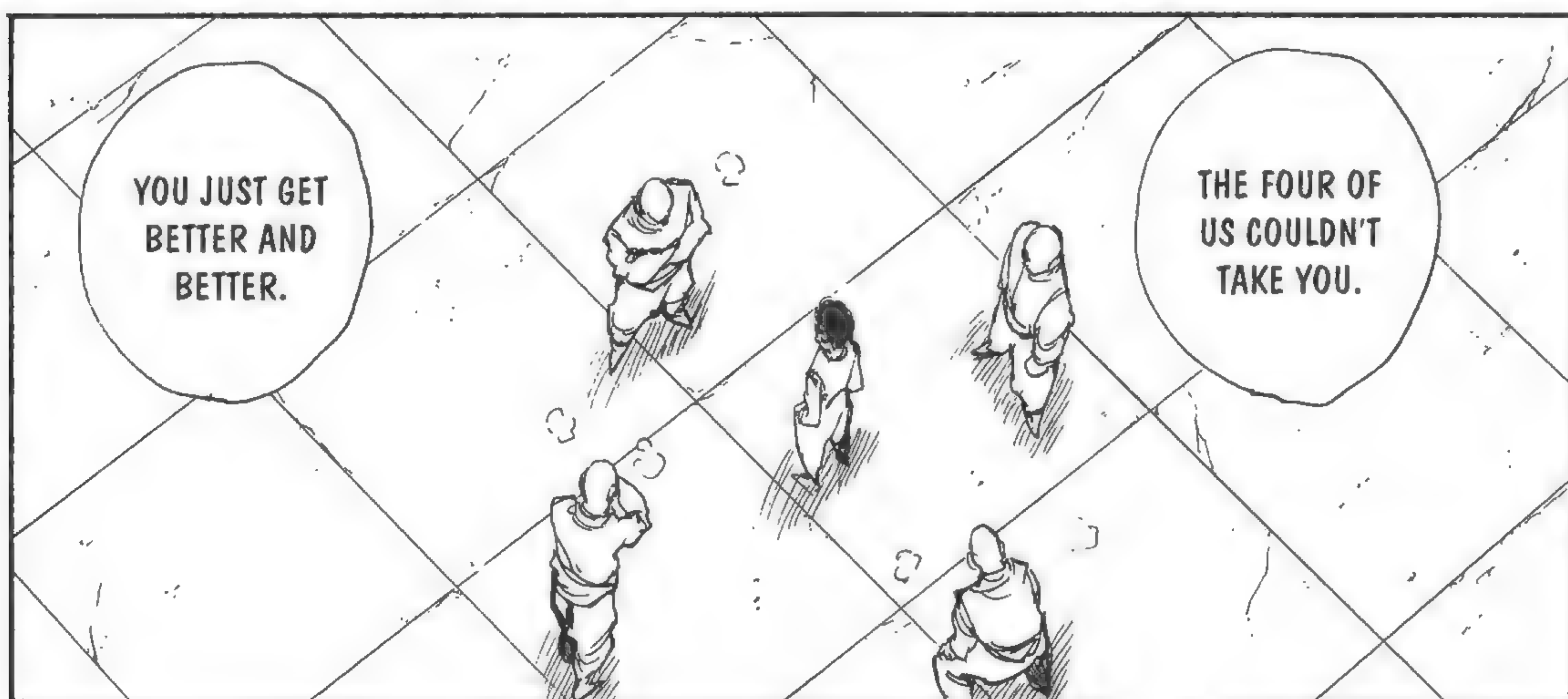
Twoing



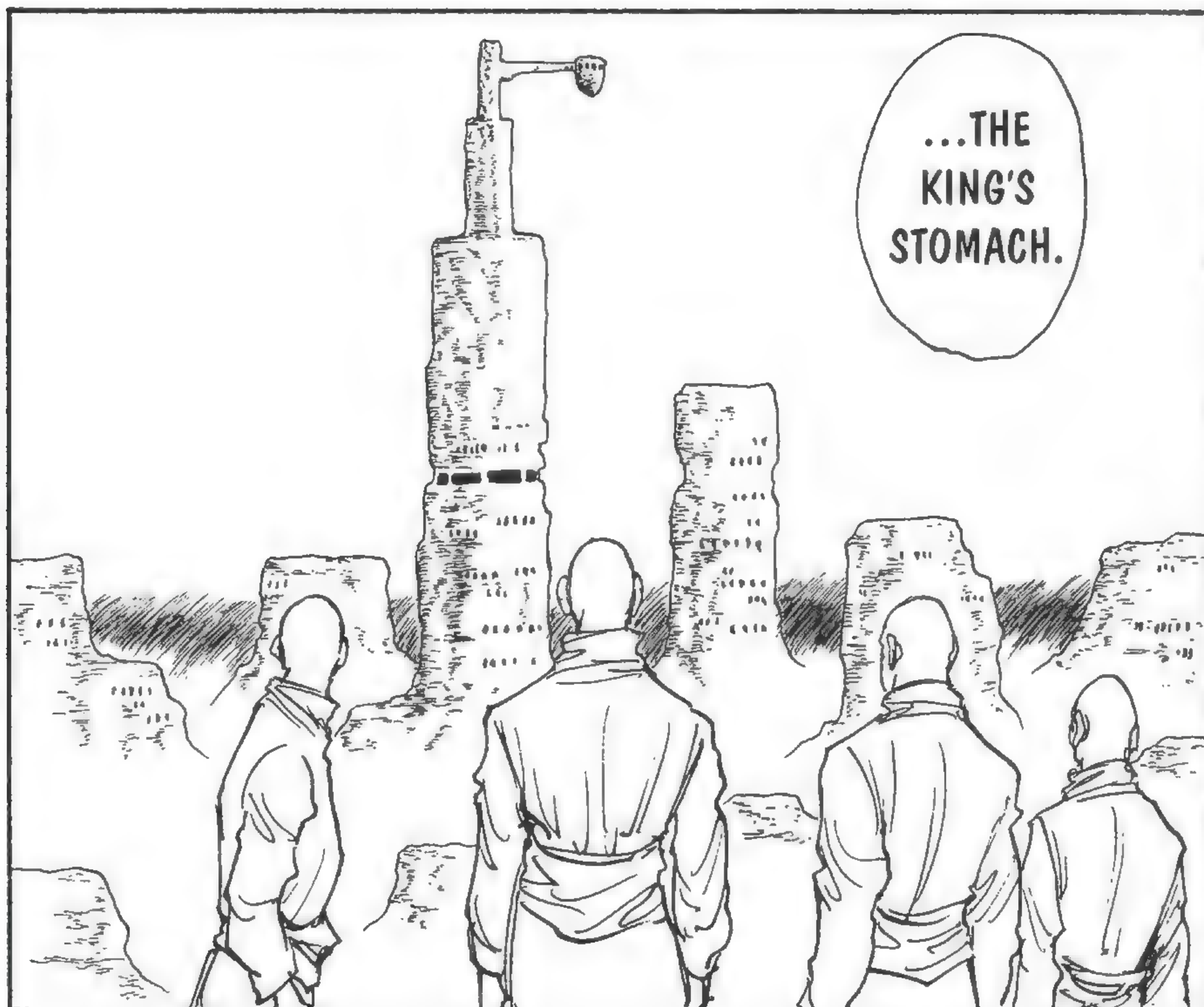
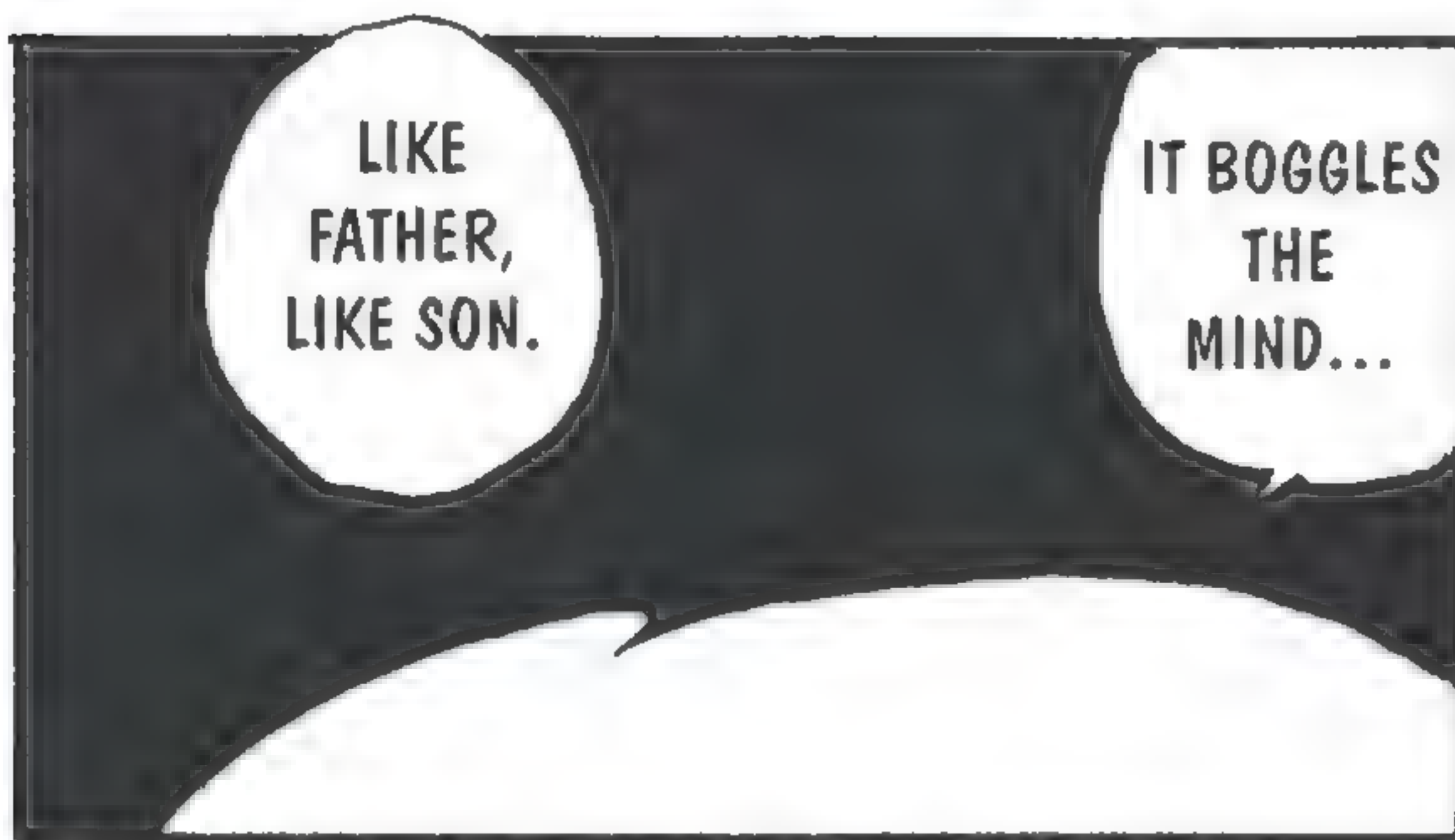
Hah !!!

P  
O  
W

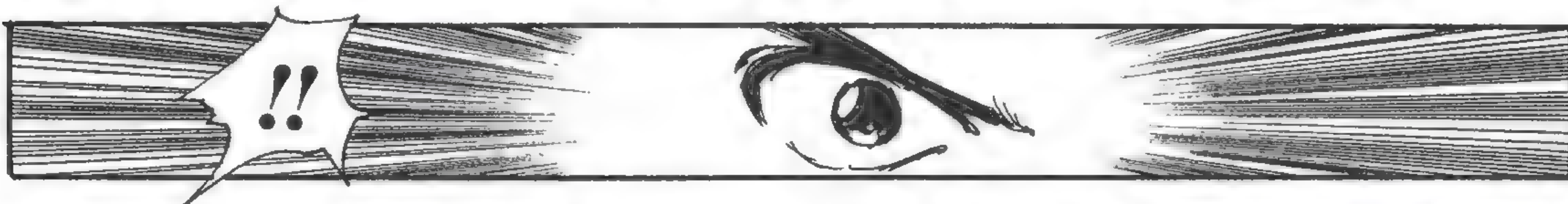




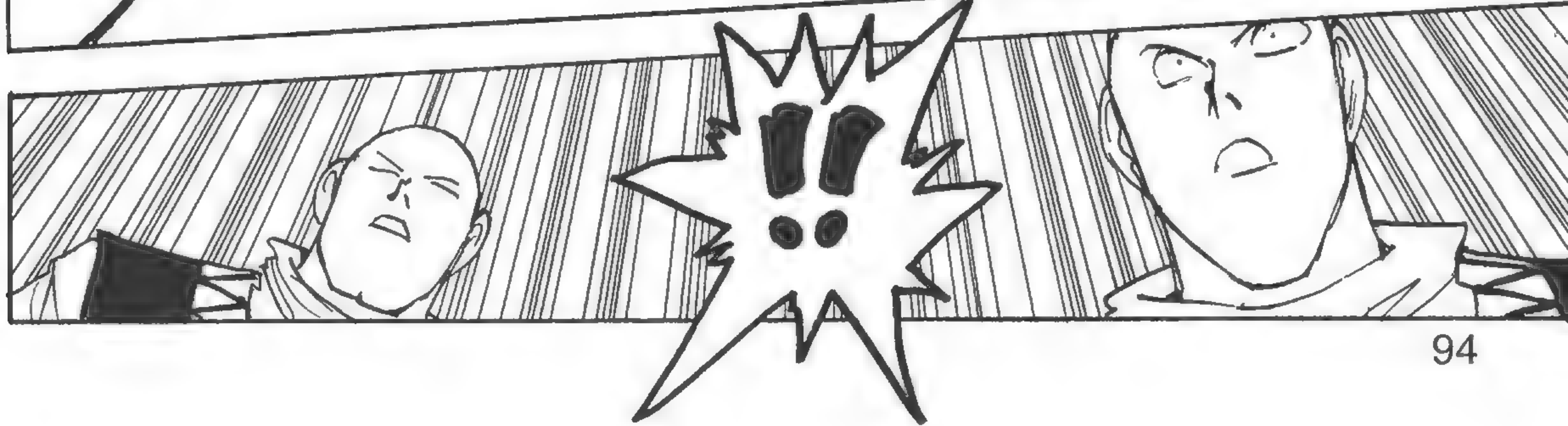




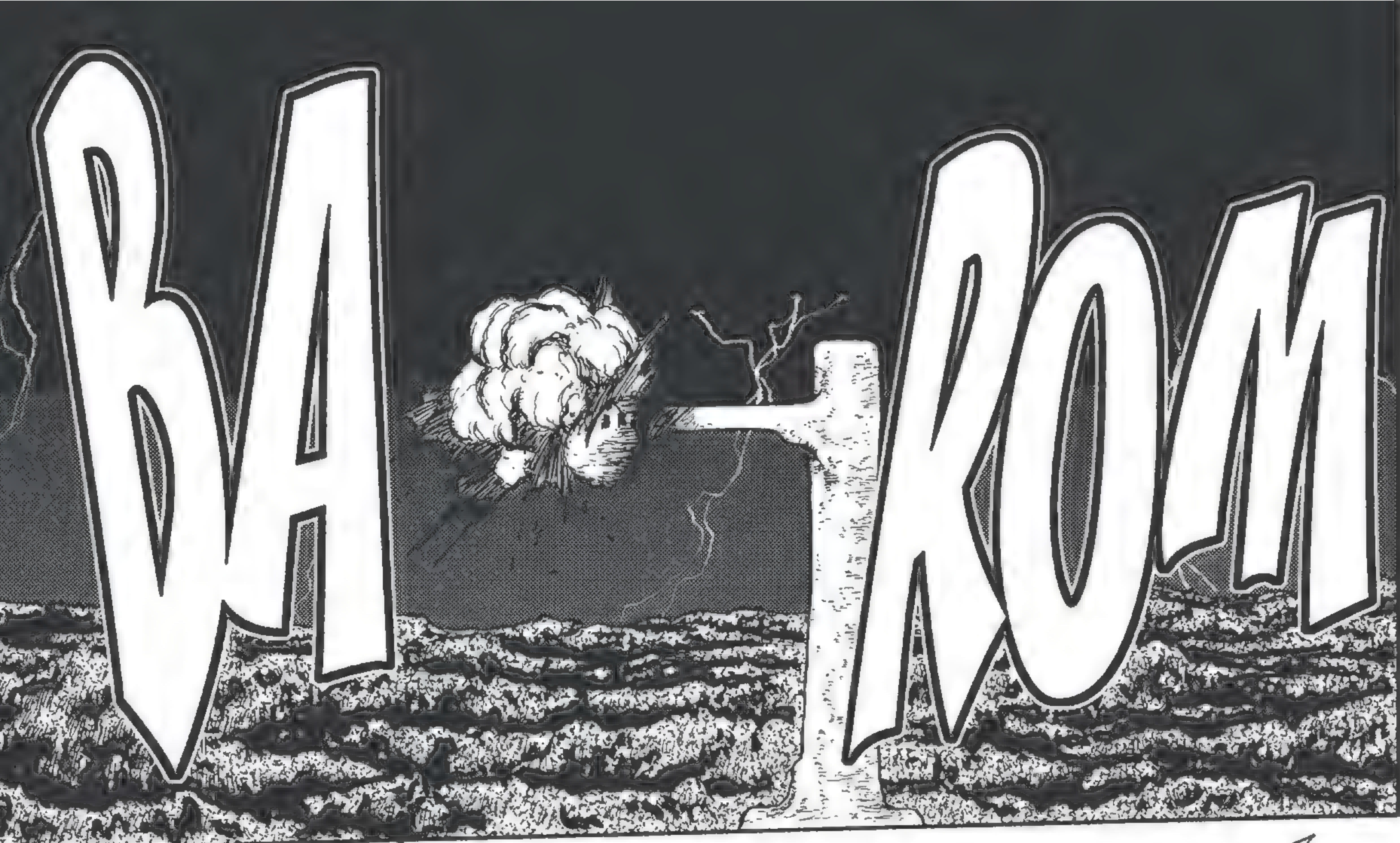














IS  
THIS  
ALL  
HE'S  
GOT?!

...IN  
TINY  
PIECES!

...I  
SHOULD  
NOW  
BE...

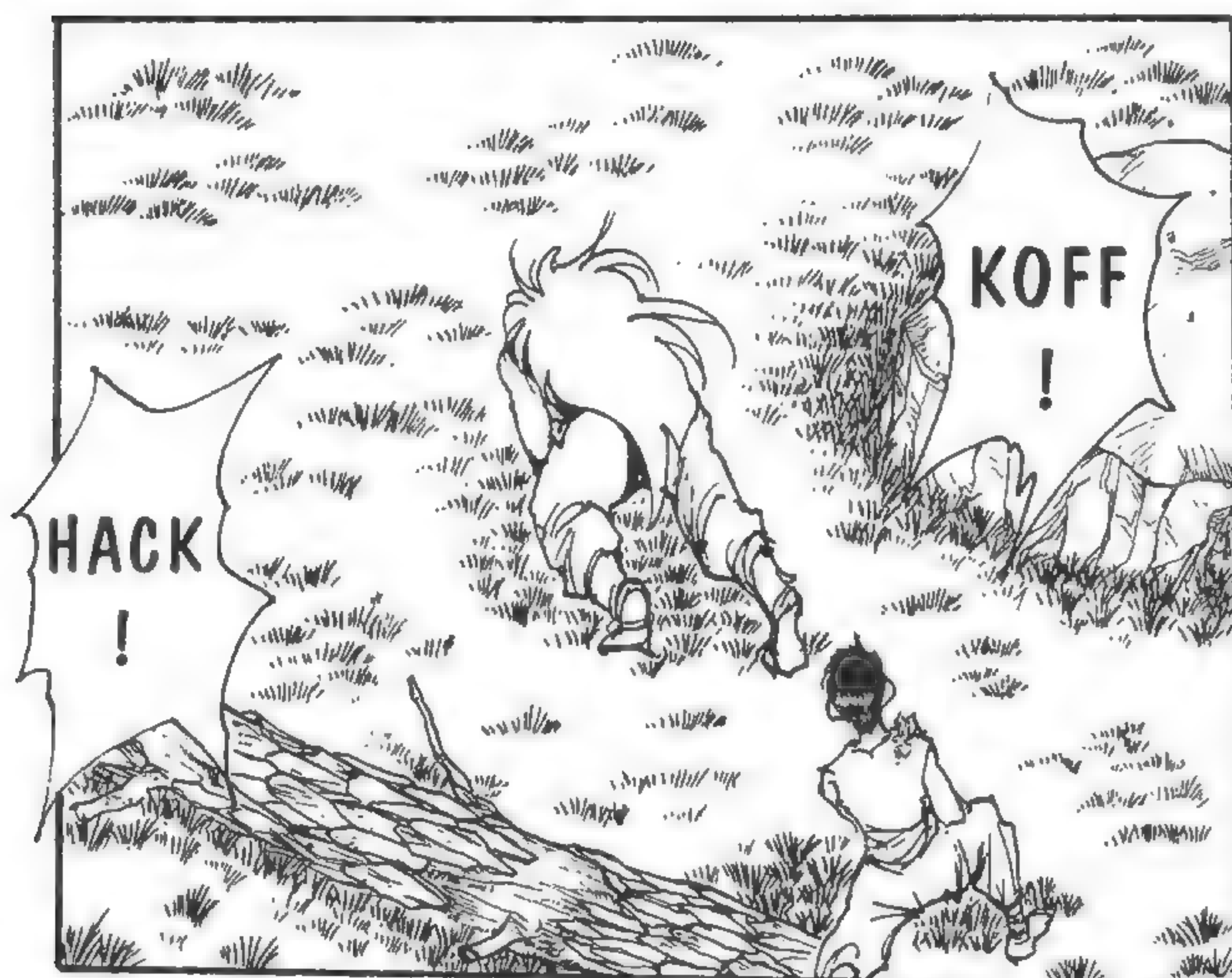
...IF  
HE'S  
LOST  
ALL  
RESTRAINT...







**AAAGH!!**







YOU  
SHOULD  
EAT.



TO FIGHT YOU  
NOW, LIKE  
THIS...  
IT WOULDN'T  
MEAN  
ANYTHING.



...CAUSED  
YOUR OWN  
DESTRUCTION?

CAN YOU  
JUST TELL  
ME WHY  
YOU'VE...

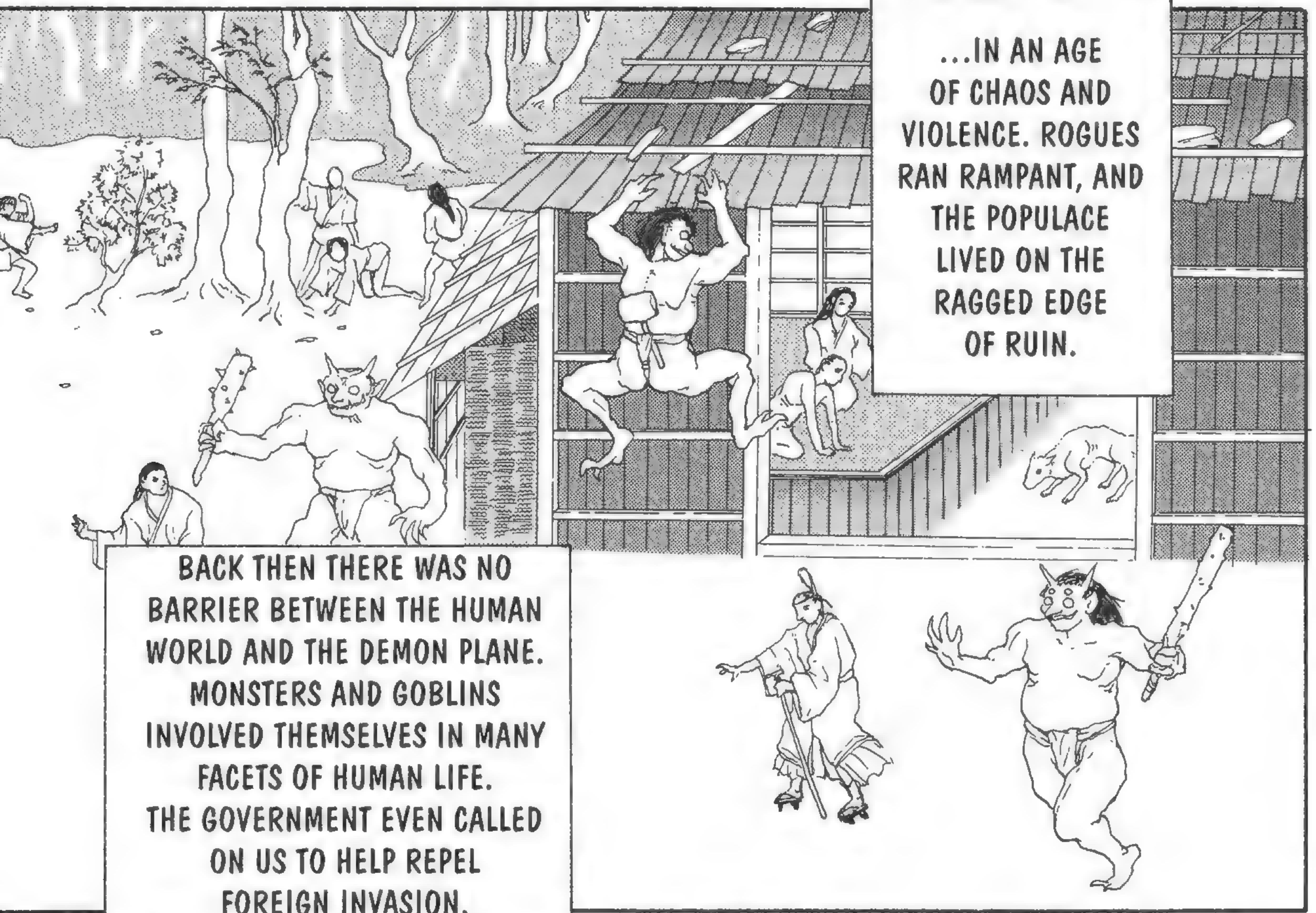
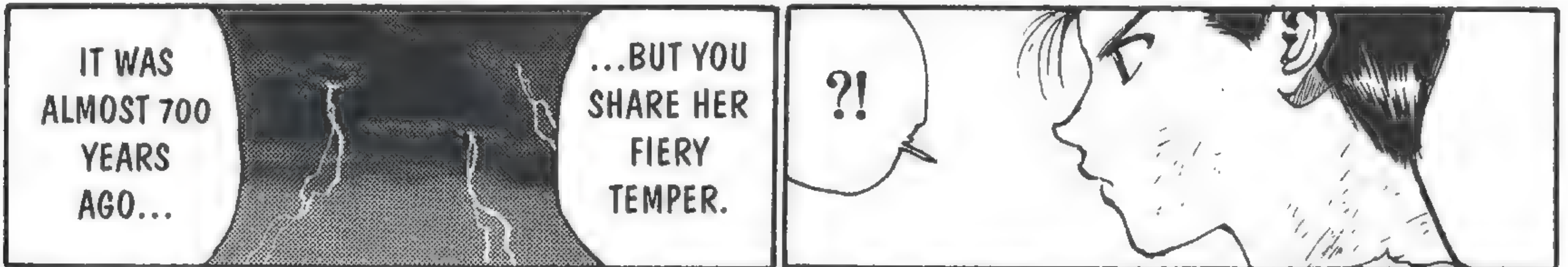


BUT HERE YOU  
ARE, STARVED,  
NEAR DEATH.  
WHAT'S THE  
POINT?!

IF YOU MUST  
HAVE HUMAN  
FLESH, I COULD  
FETCH ALL YOU  
WANT.

I'M VERY  
DISAPPOINTED.









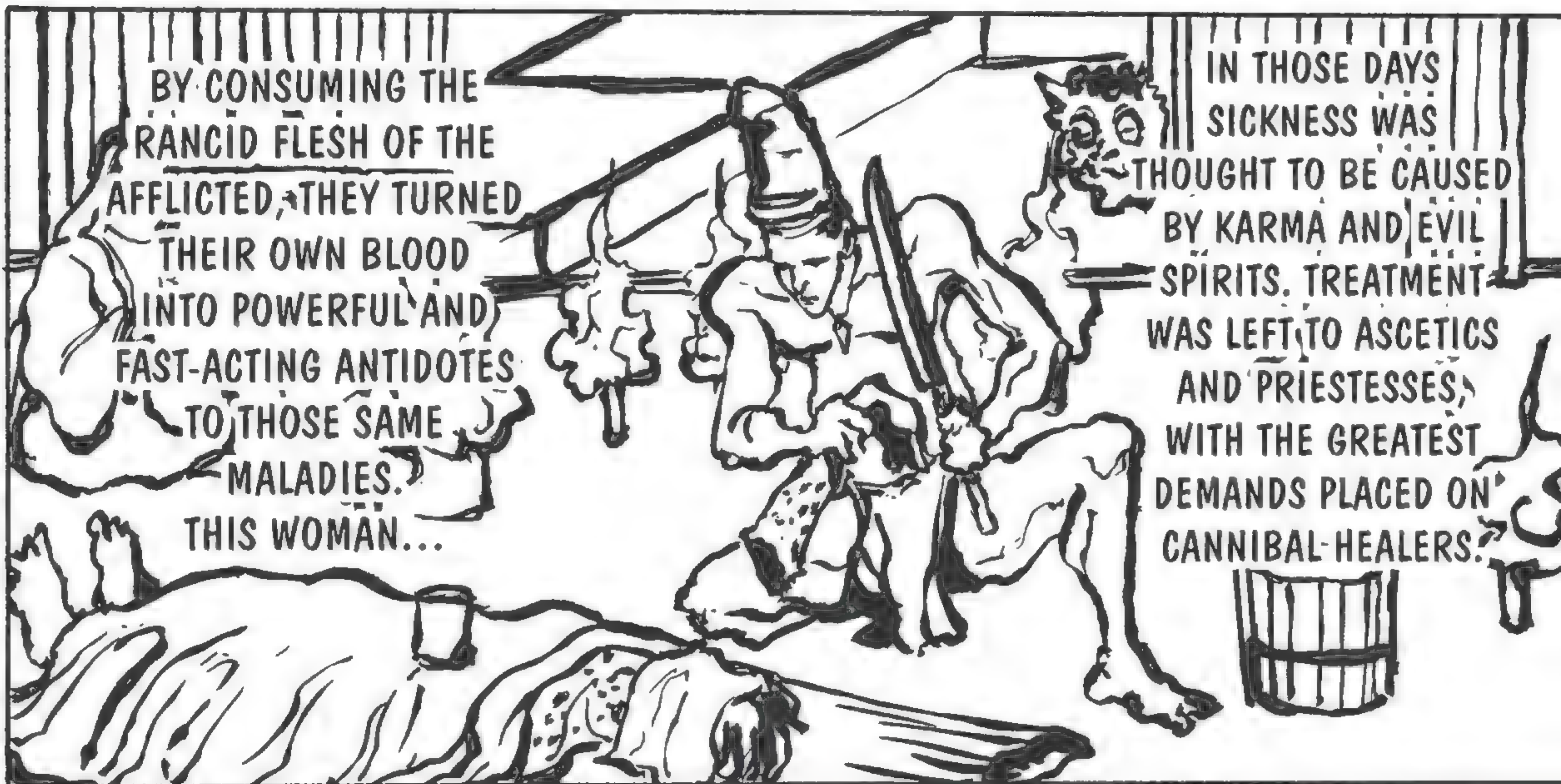
I'D NEVER SEEN  
SUCH EYES.  
HER GAZE BORE  
INTO ME...

...A WOMAN  
WHO REEKED  
OF SHAMANIC  
INCENSE.



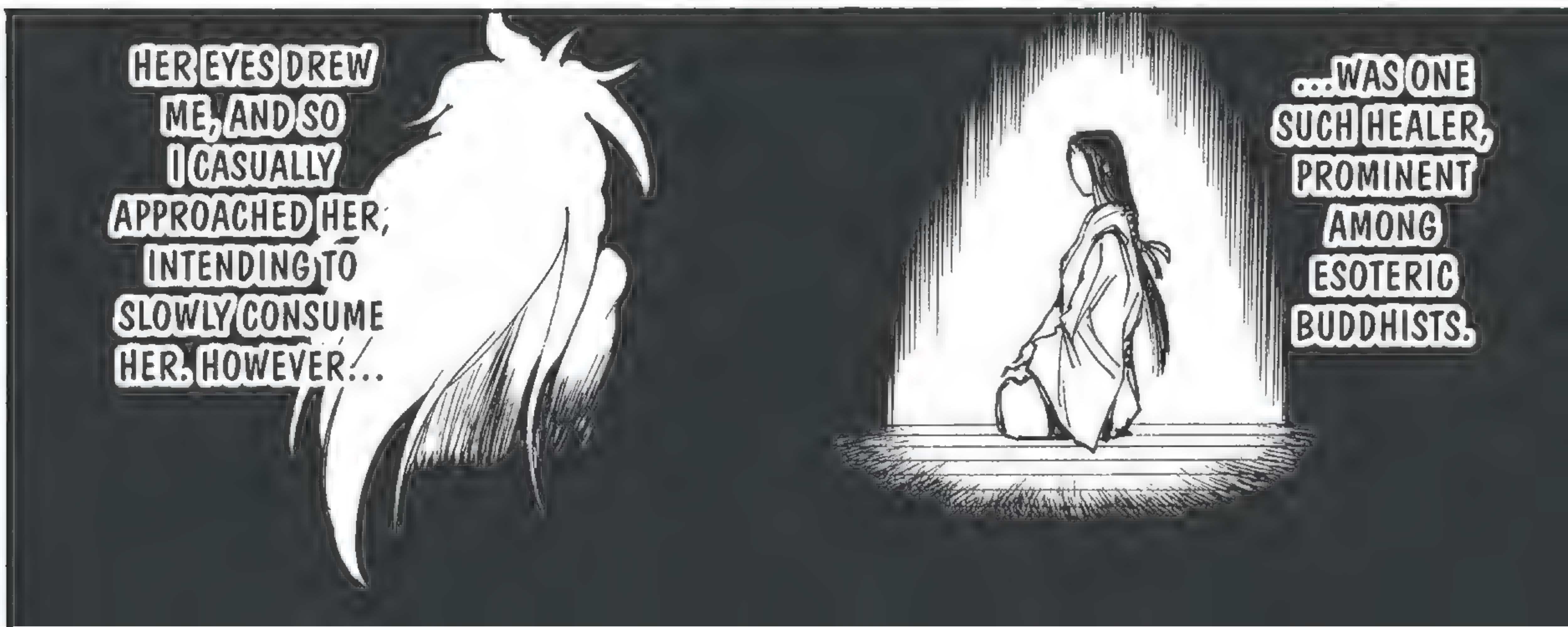
CAN'T  
SAY I  
HAVE.

YOU'VE HEARD  
OF CANNIBAL  
HEALERS?



BY CONSUMING THE  
RANCID FLESH OF THE  
AFFLICTED, THEY TURNED  
THEIR OWN BLOOD  
INTO POWERFUL AND  
FAST-ACTING ANTIDOTES  
TO THOSE SAME  
MALADIES.  
THIS WOMAN...

IN THOSE DAYS  
SICKNESS WAS  
THOUGHT TO BE CAUSED  
BY KARMA AND EVIL  
SPIRITS. TREATMENT  
WAS LEFT TO ASCETICS  
AND PRIESTESSES,  
WITH THE GREATEST  
DEMANDS PLACED ON  
CANNIBAL-HEALERS.



HER EYES DREW  
ME, AND SO  
I CASUALLY  
APPROACHED HER,  
INTENDING TO  
SLOWLY CONSUME  
HER. HOWEVER...

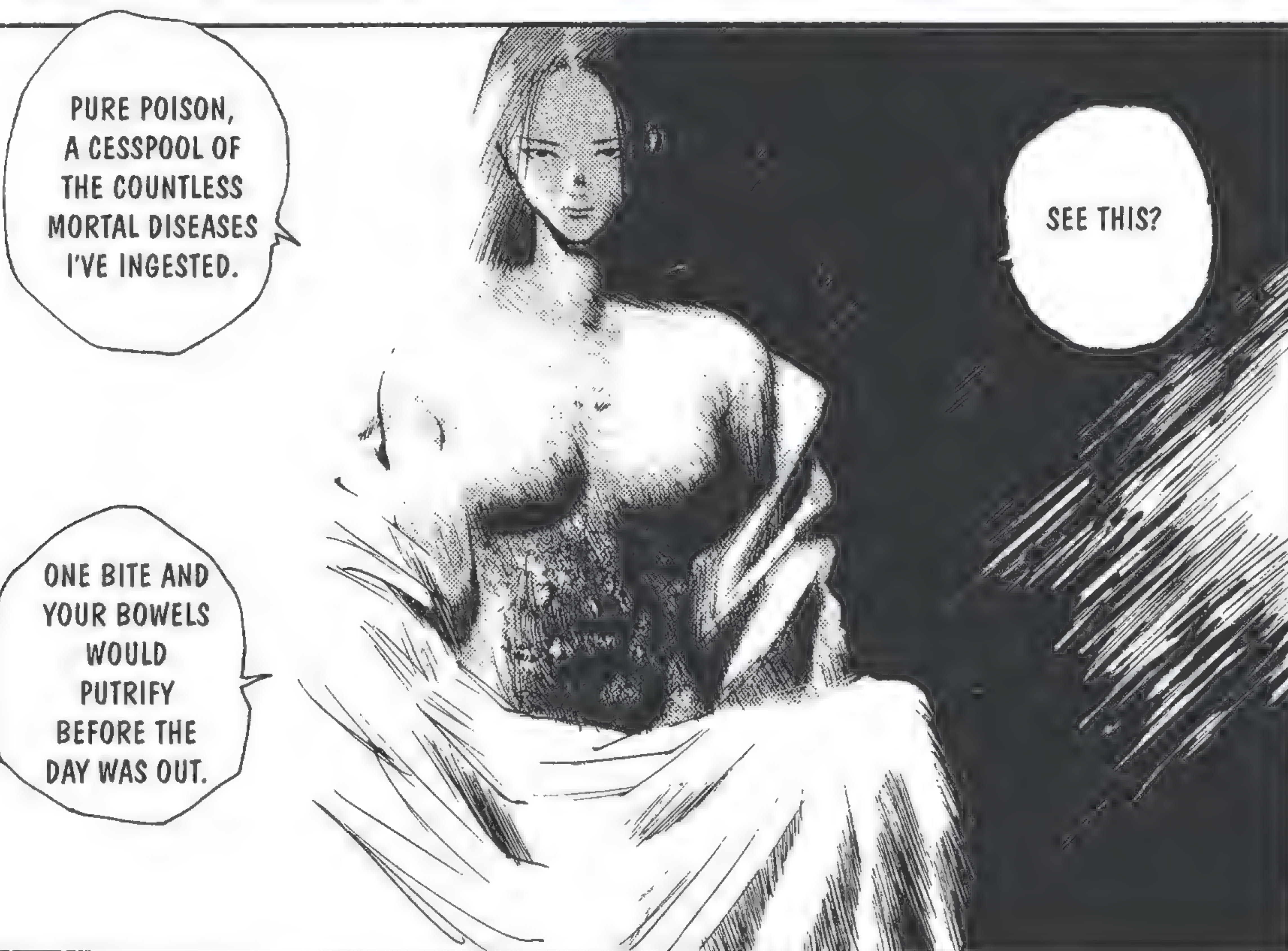
...WAS ONE  
SUCH HEALER,  
PROMINENT  
AMONG  
ESOTERIC  
BUDDHISTS.





LET ME  
SHOW YOU  
SOMETHING.

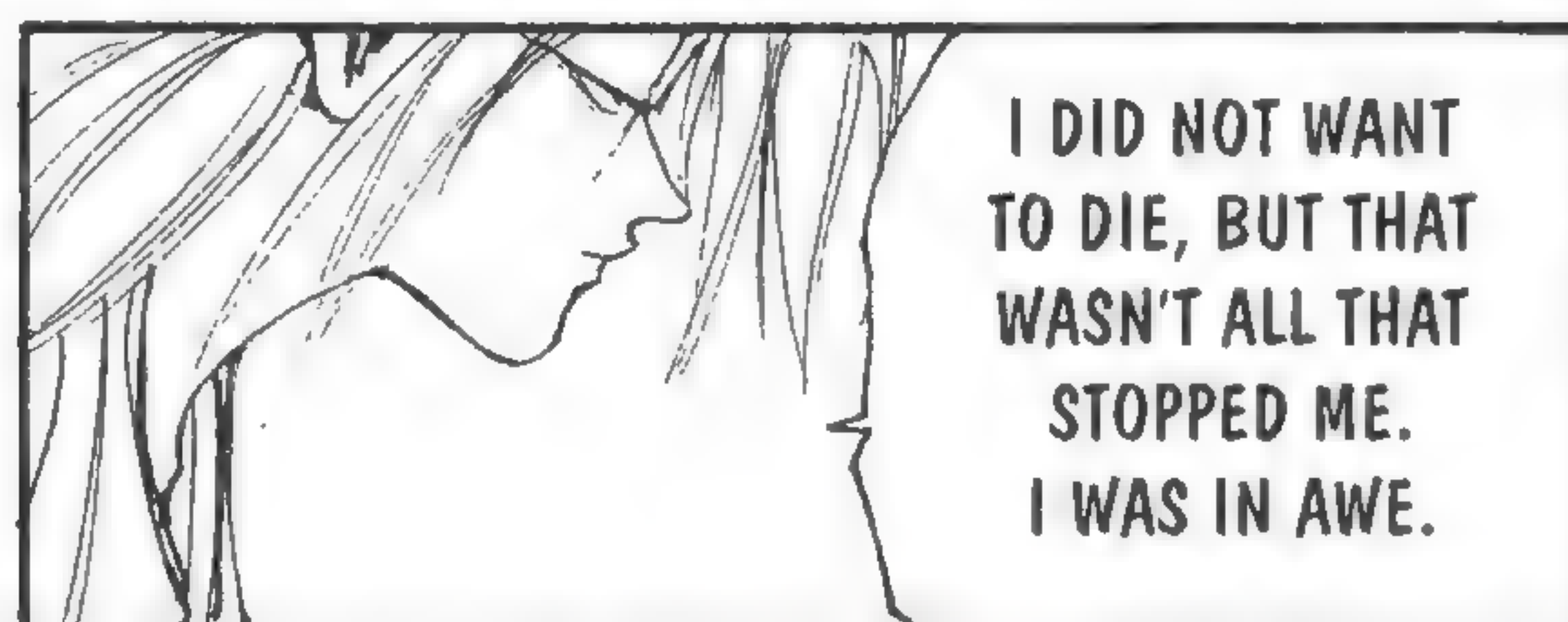
YOU SEEK MY  
FLESH, OGRE?



PURE POISON,  
A CESSPOOL OF  
THE COUNTLESS  
MORTAL DISEASES  
I'VE INGESTED.

SEE THIS?

ONE BITE AND  
YOUR BOWELS  
WOULD  
PUTRIFY  
BEFORE THE  
DAY WAS OUT.



I DID NOT WANT  
TO DIE, BUT THAT  
WASN'T ALL THAT  
STOPPED ME.  
I WAS IN AWE.



YOU WOULD  
STILL BE A  
MERE BEAST.

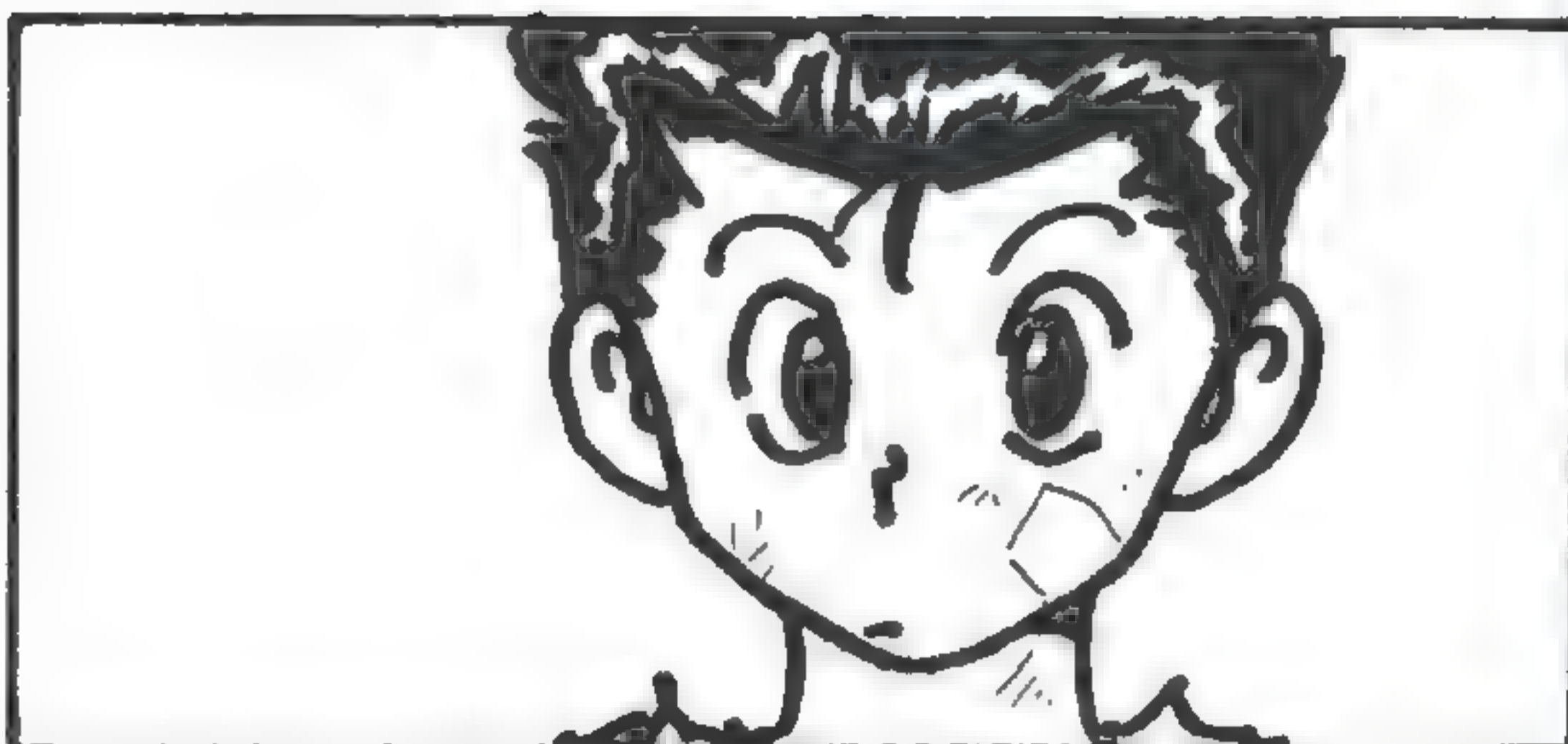
YOU COULD  
JUST KILL ME,  
BUT TO WHAT  
PURPOSE?



DEVOUR ME IF  
YOU WISH,  
LOWLY BEAST,  
BUT I  
PROMISE...

...IT WILL BE  
YOUR LAST  
MEAL.





I  
WOODED  
HER.

SO WHAT  
DID YOU  
DO?



IT  
TOOK THE  
WHOLE  
NIGHT.

SHE'D  
SEIZED MY  
SOUL.



SHE WAS  
A GOOD  
WOMAN.

YES. BE  
PROUD.

SO SHE WAS  
MY ANCESTOR,  
TOO...



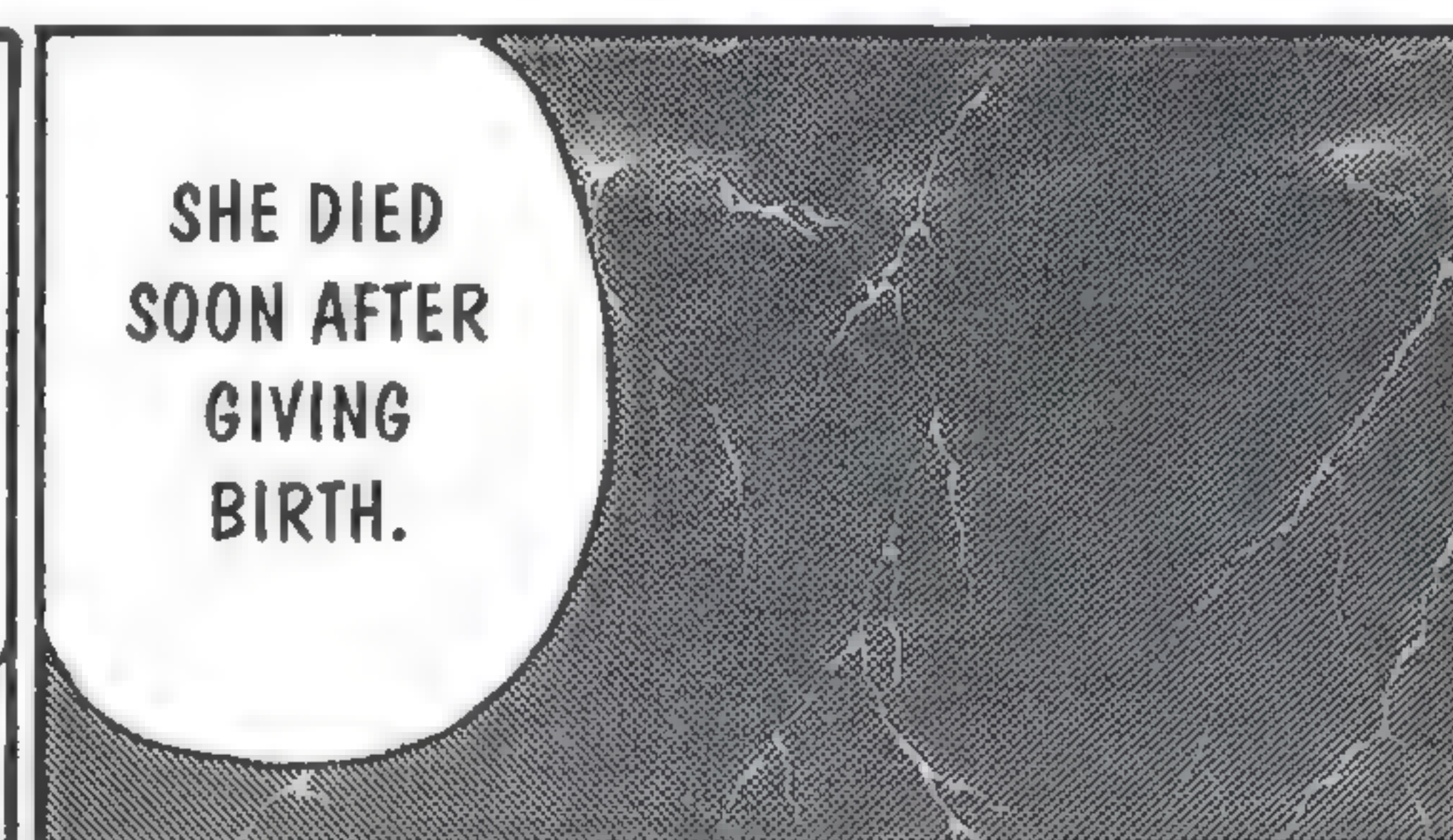
I VOWED, THEN  
AND THERE, TO  
TASTE NO HUMAN  
FLESH UNTIL WE MET  
AGAIN—THOUGH WE  
MADE NO PROMISES  
OF THAT SORT.

I DIDN'T PROBE INTO  
HER BACKGROUND,  
BUT SHE DID SAY SHE  
WASN'T BORN A  
SHAMAN. SHE ATE  
HUMAN FLESH BY  
CHOICE. BY CHOICE!  
COMPARED TO HER  
I WAS NOTHING.



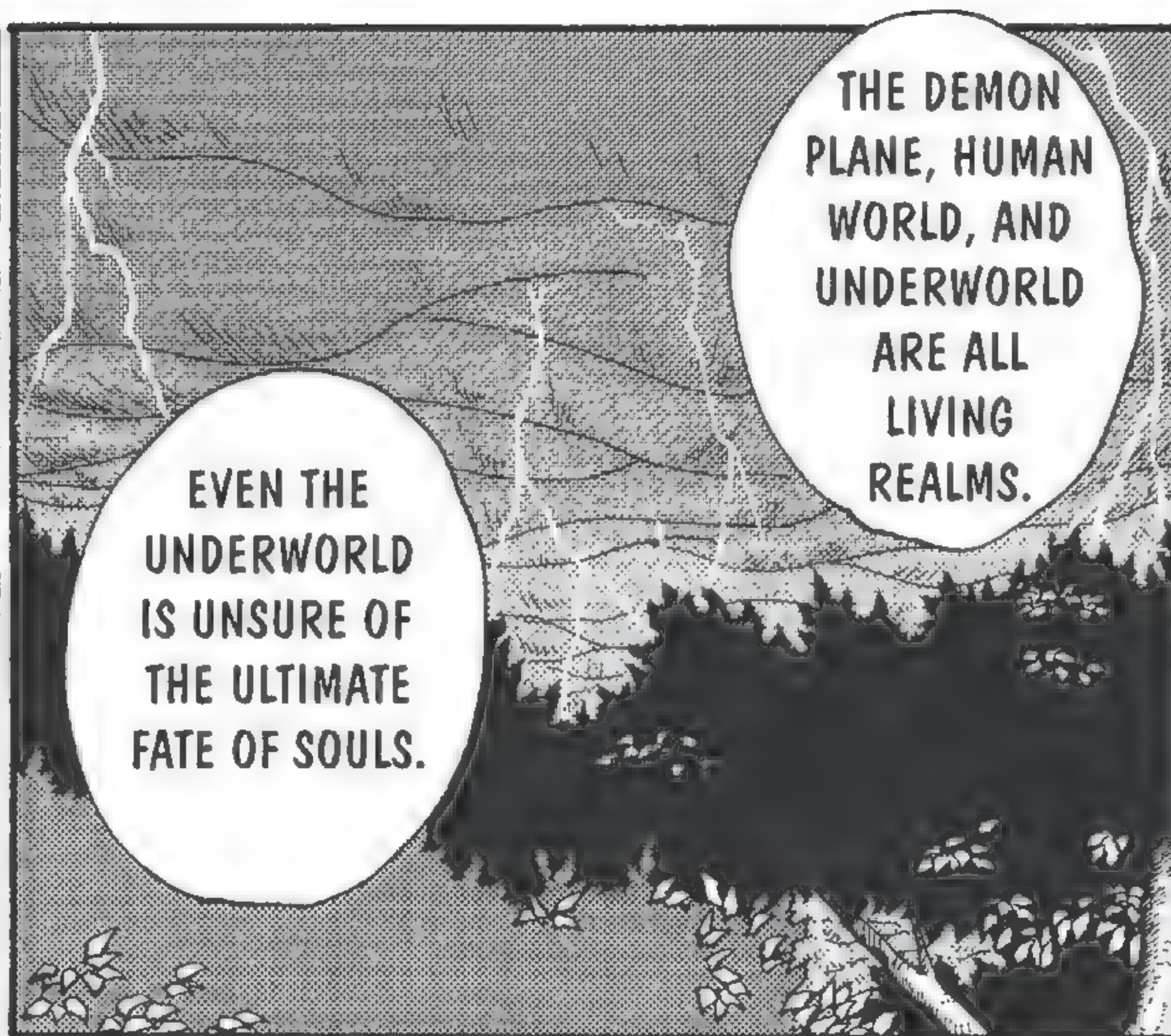
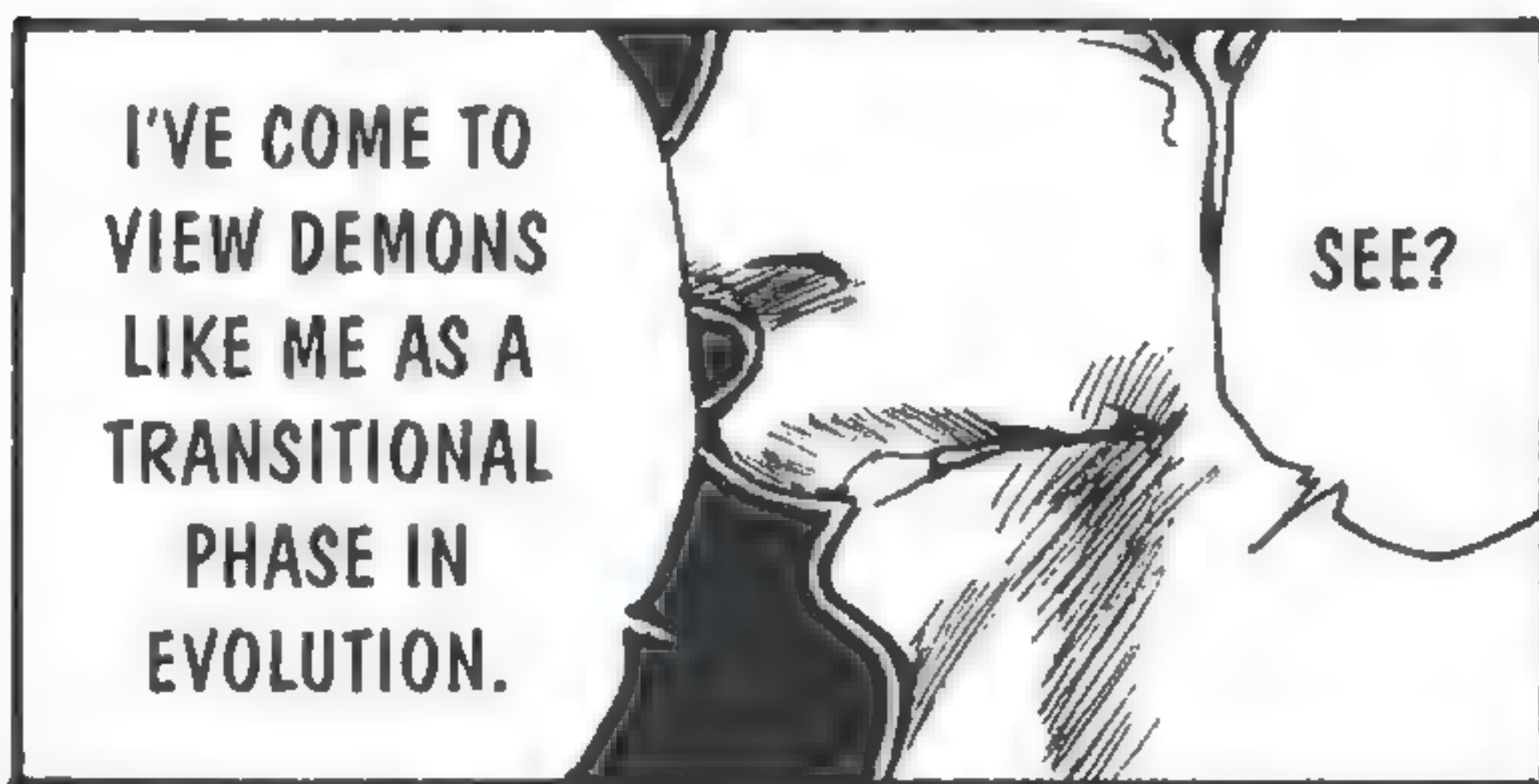
...BUT SUCH A  
WOMAN ISN'T  
REBORN THAT  
OFTEN.

I AWAITED  
HER  
REINCARNATION...



SHE DIED  
SOON AFTER  
GIVING  
BIRTH.

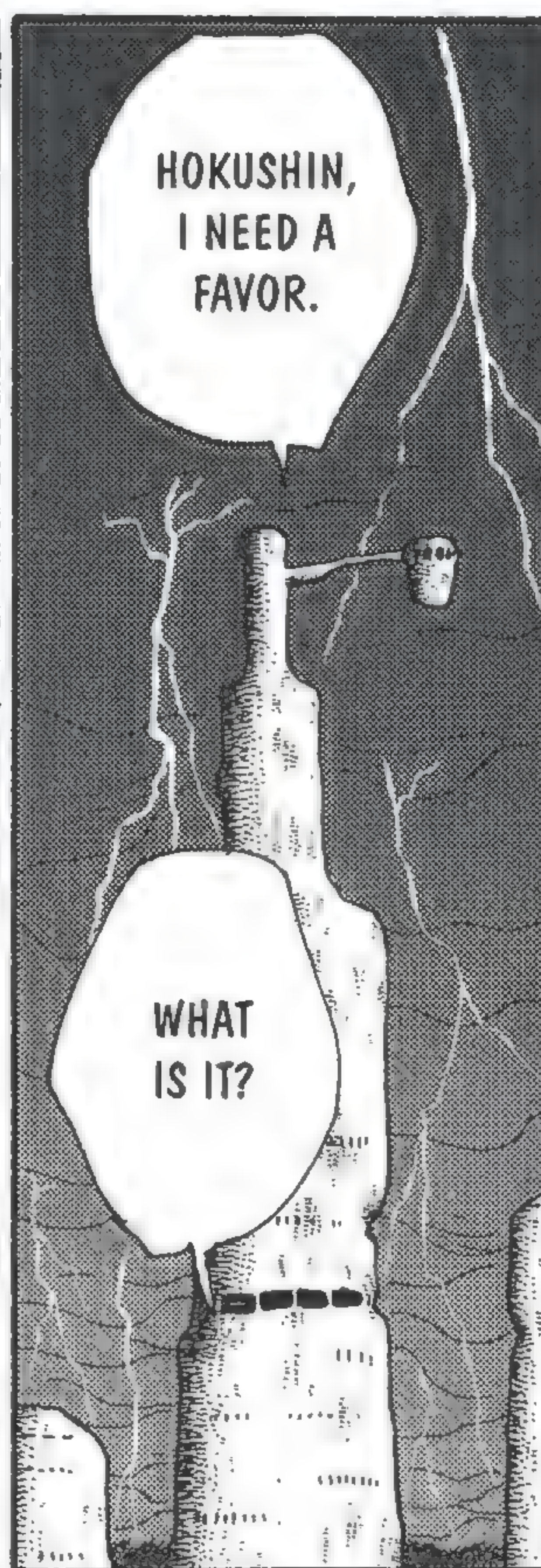
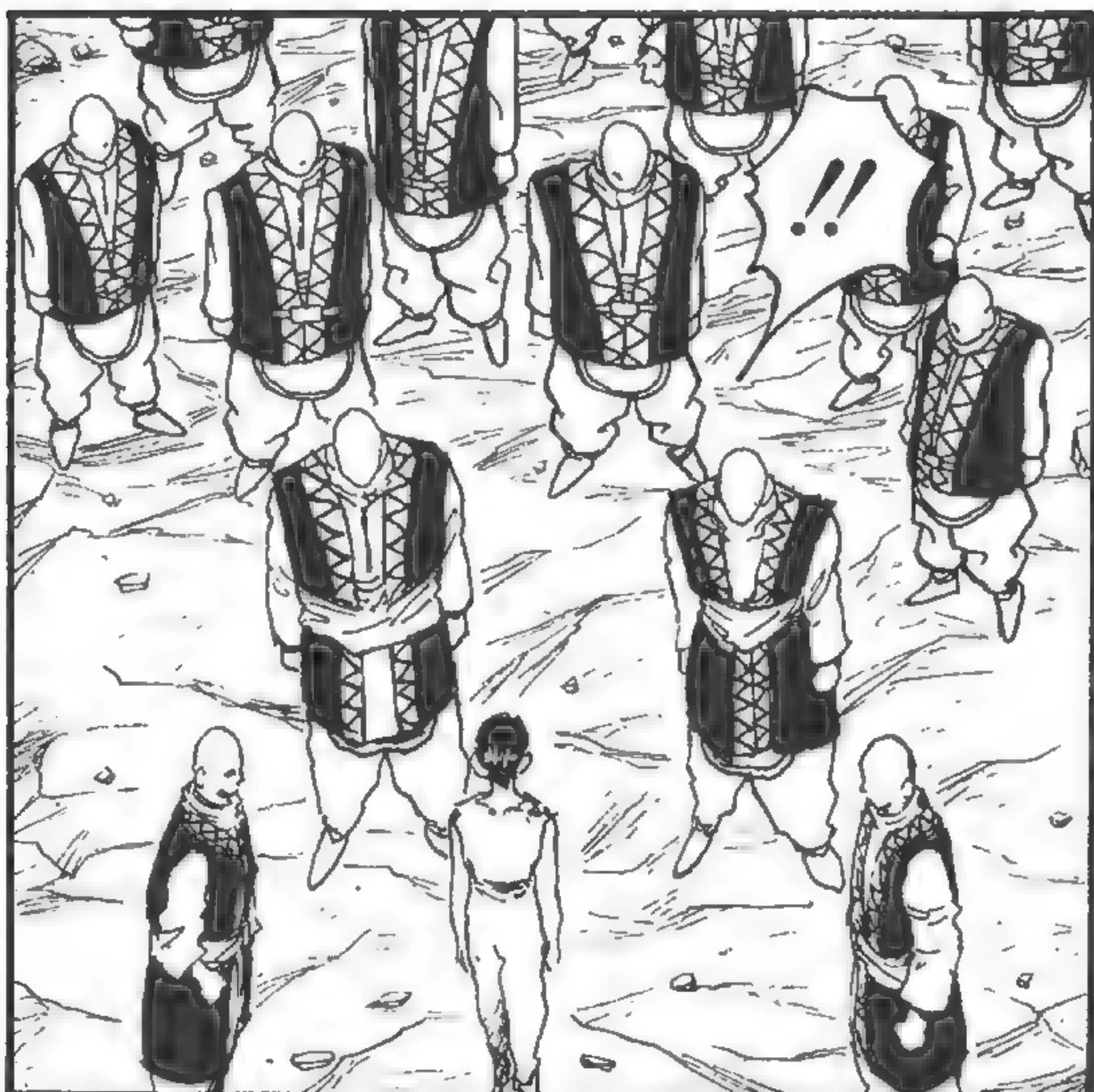




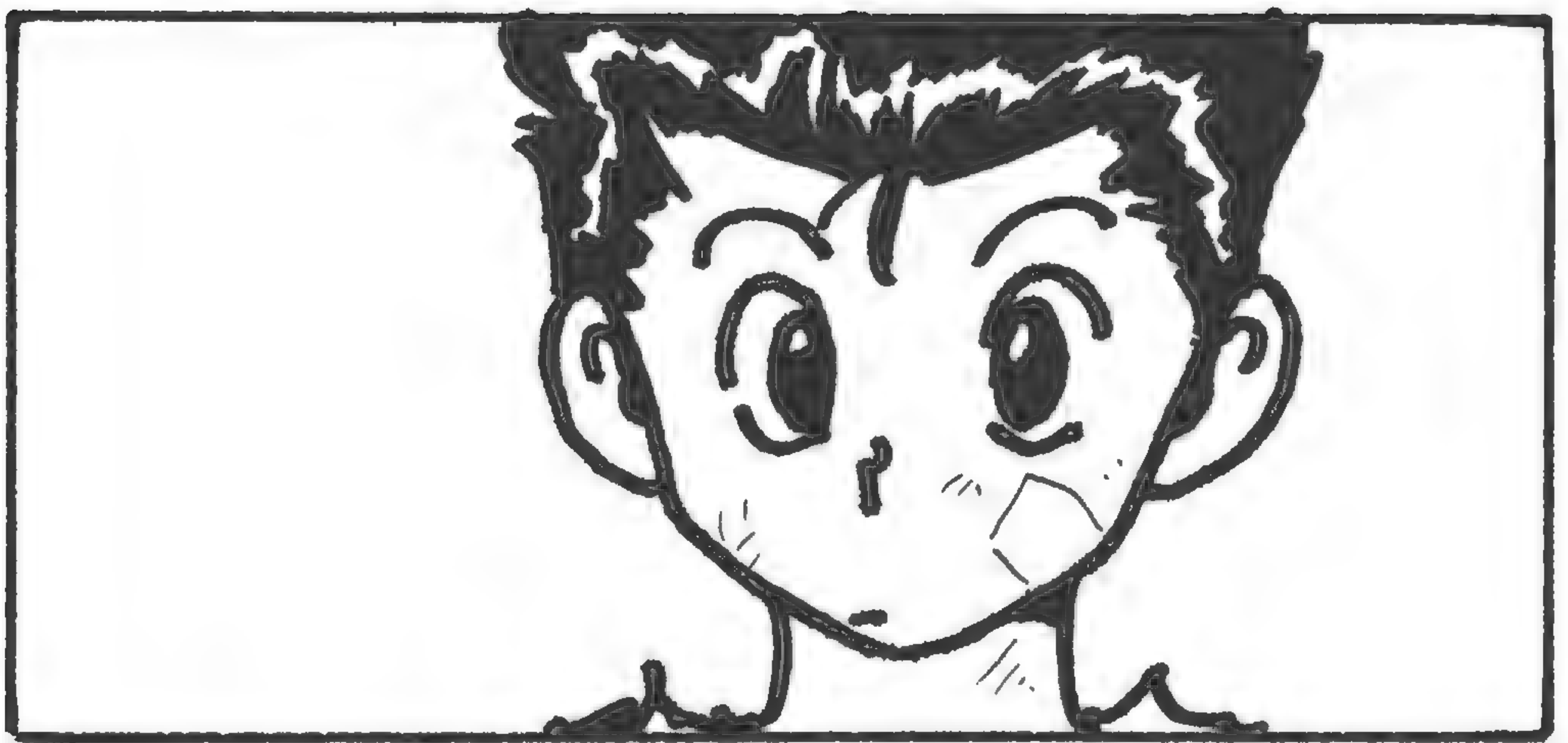














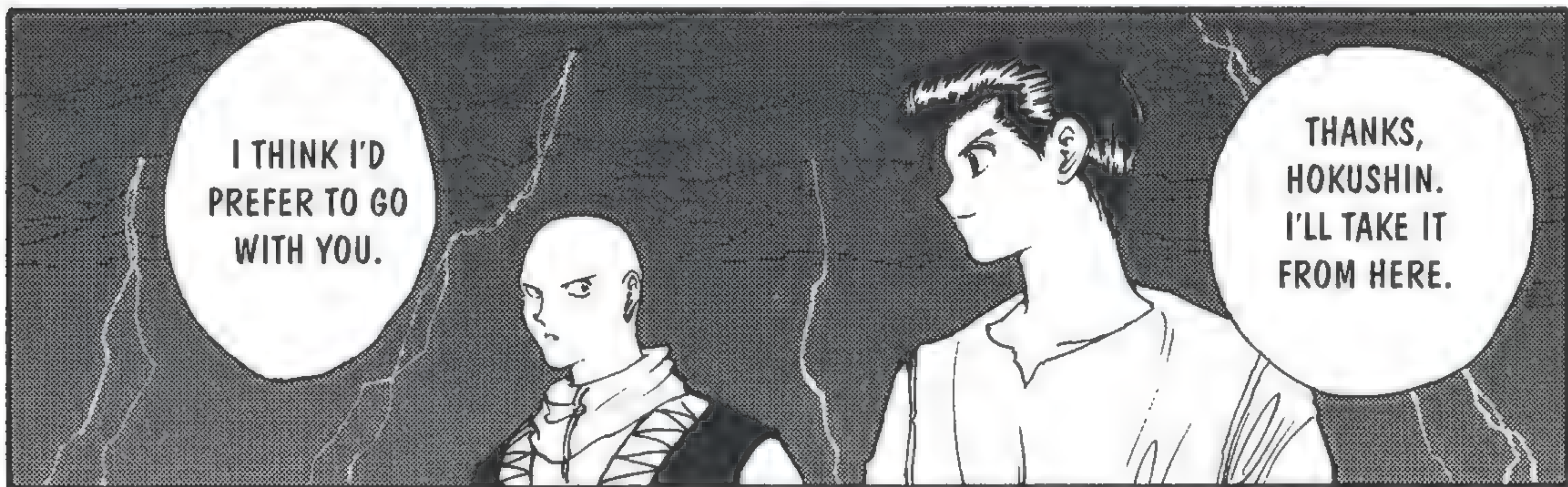
# YUSUKE'S GIFT







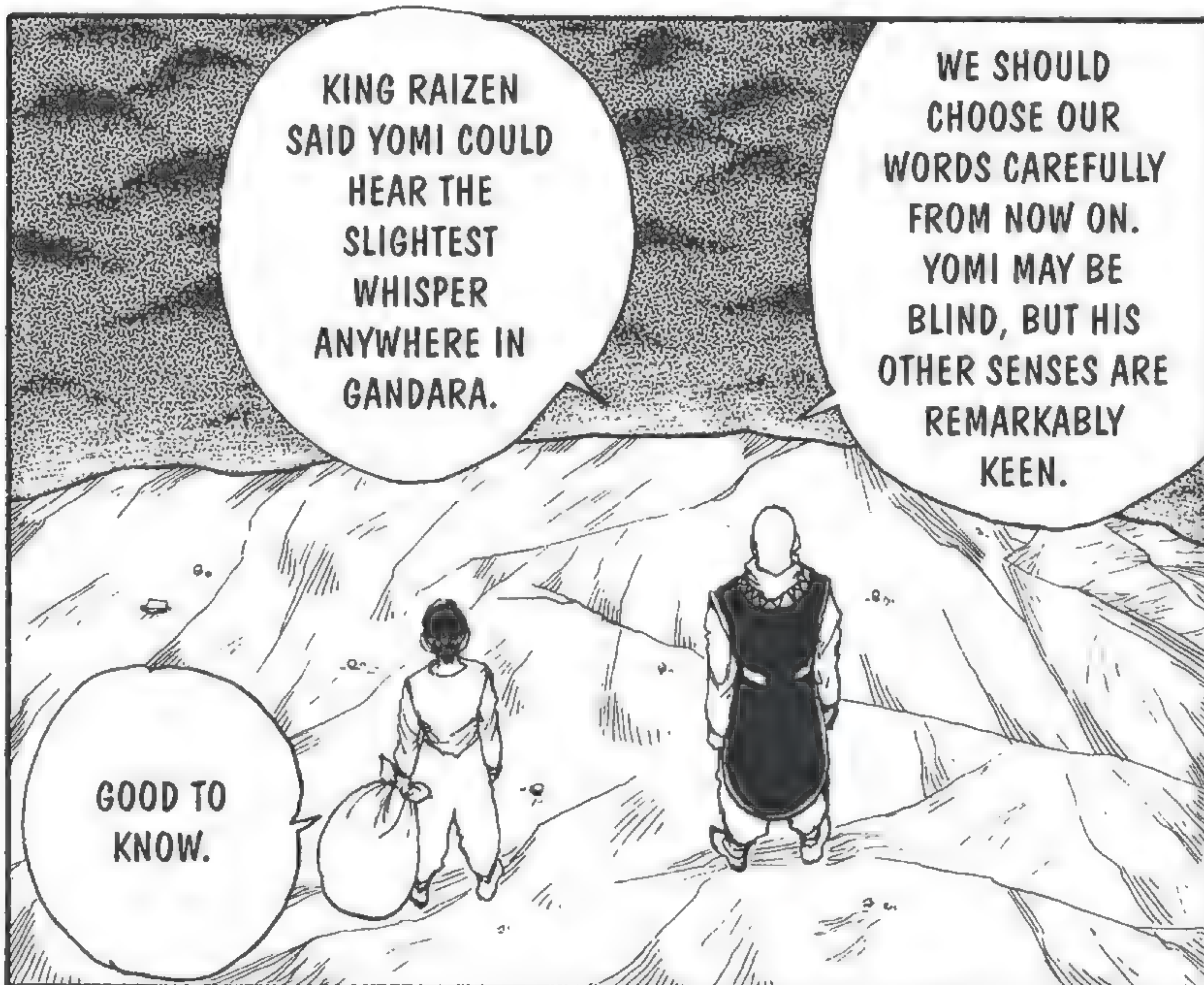
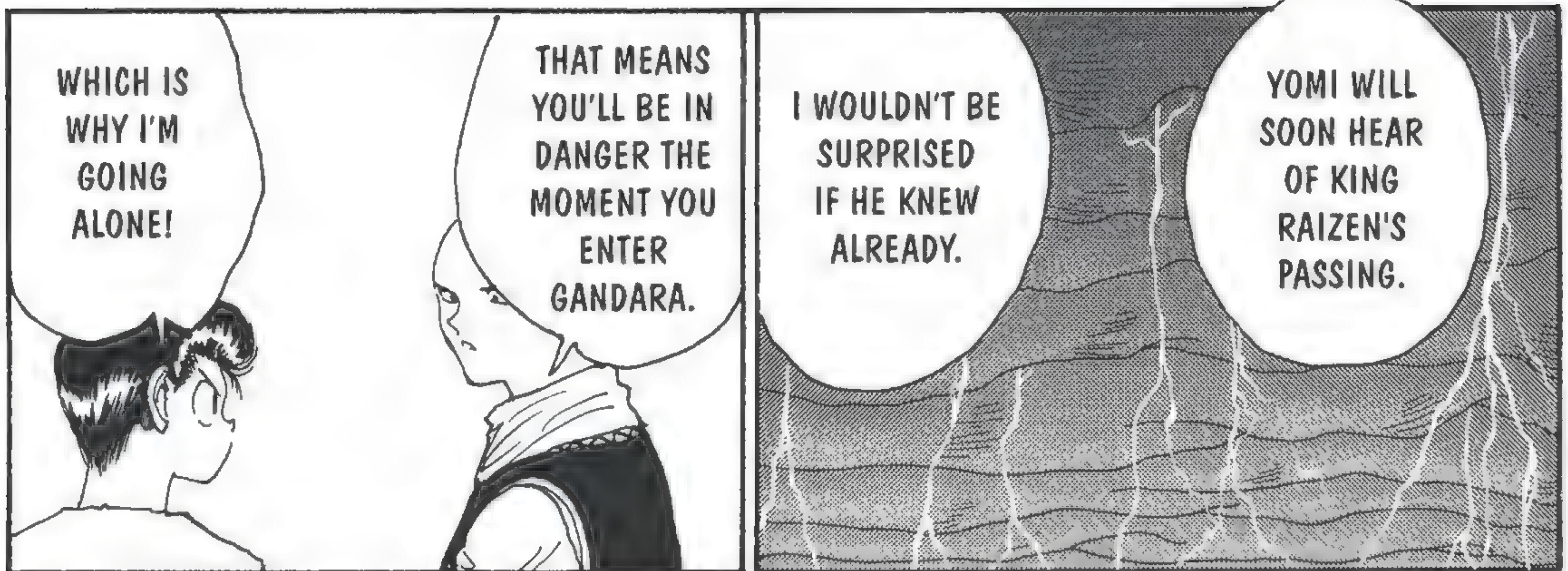
THAT'S  
GANDARA,  
YOMI'S  
COUNTRY.



I THINK I'D  
PREFER TO GO  
WITH YOU.

THANKS,  
HOKUSHIN.  
I'LL TAKE IT  
FROM HERE.



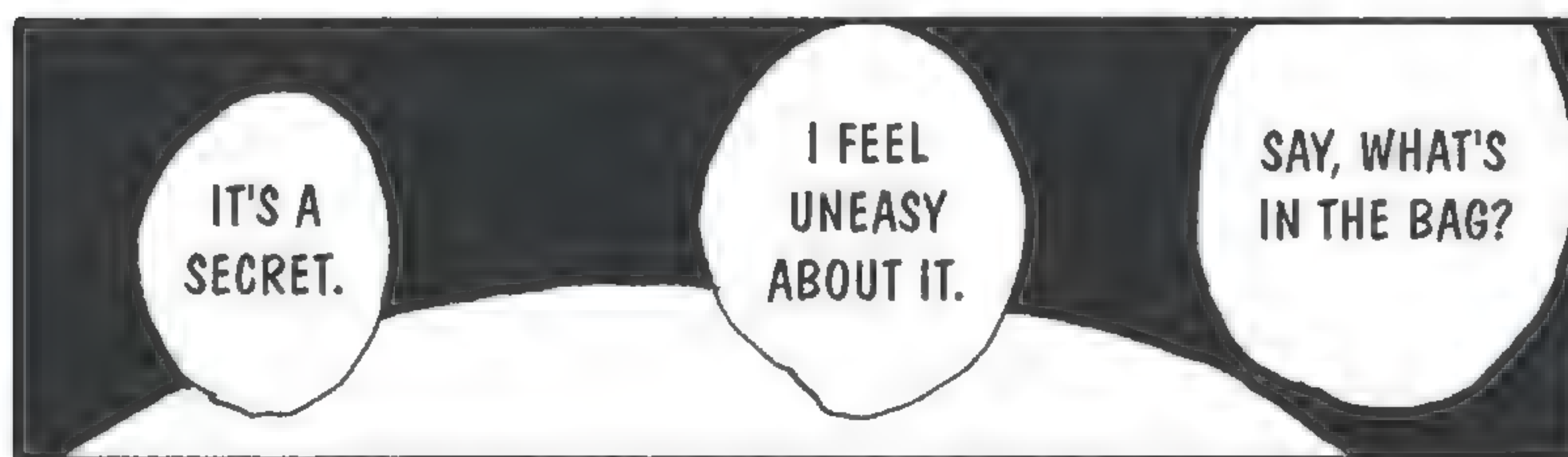






**SO GET THE  
TEA AND  
CAKES  
READY!!!**

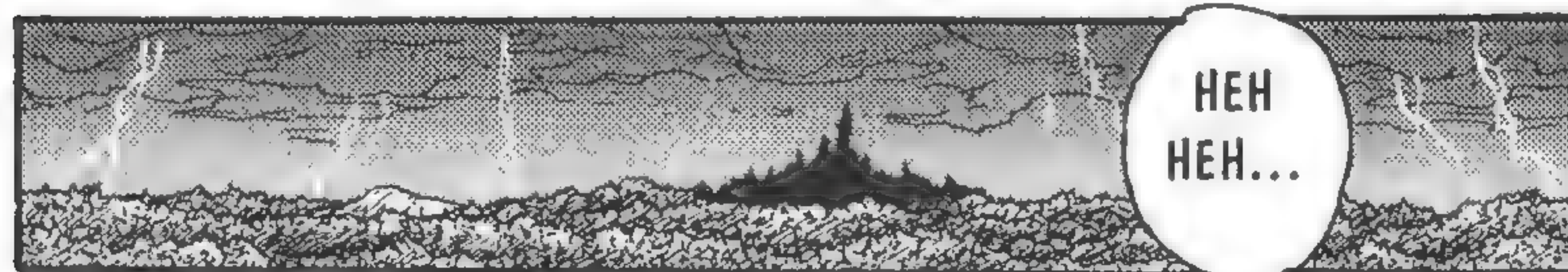
**HEY  
YOMI!!  
YER  
GONNA  
HAVE  
VISITORS  
!!!**



IT'S A  
SECRET.

I FEEL  
UNEASY  
ABOUT IT.

SAY, WHAT'S  
IN THE BAG?



HEH  
HEH...



HE'S  
COME...

KURAMA, YOUR  
FRIEND IS MOST  
INTERESTING.

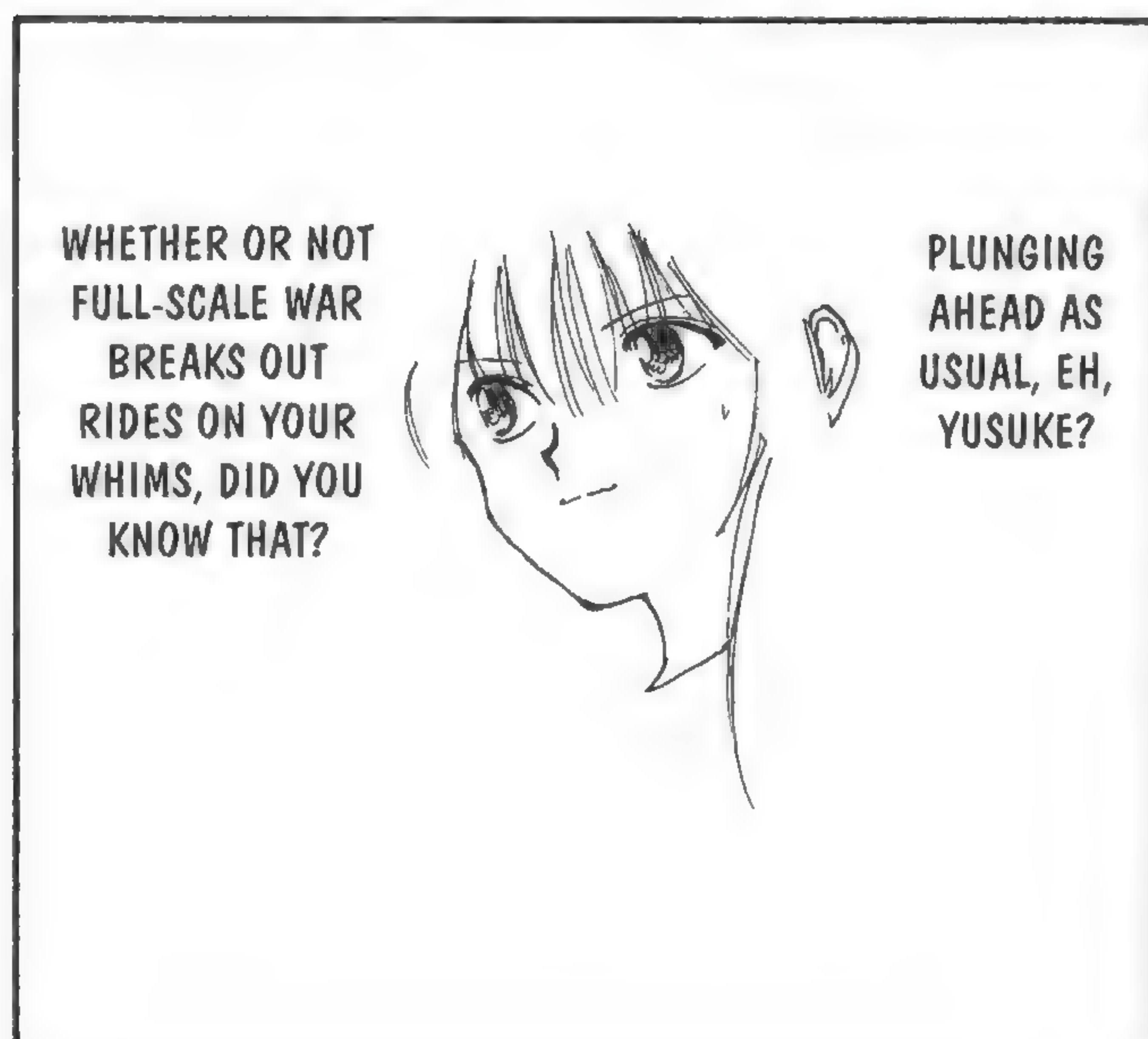
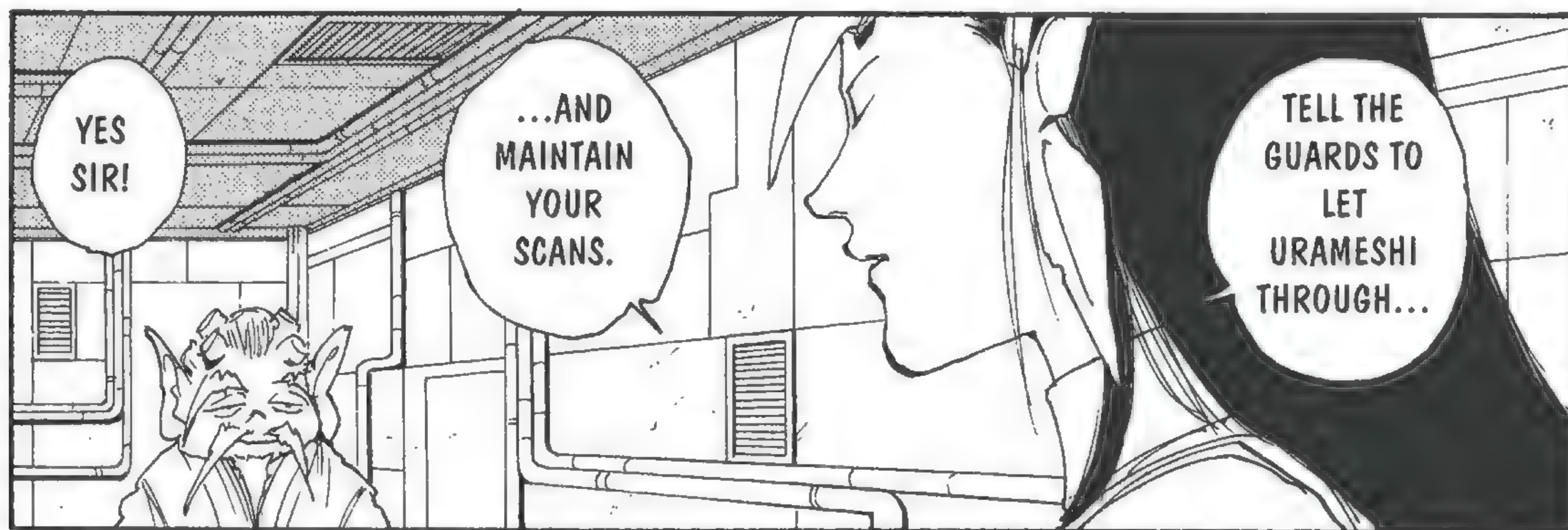


HA HA...  
HA HA...

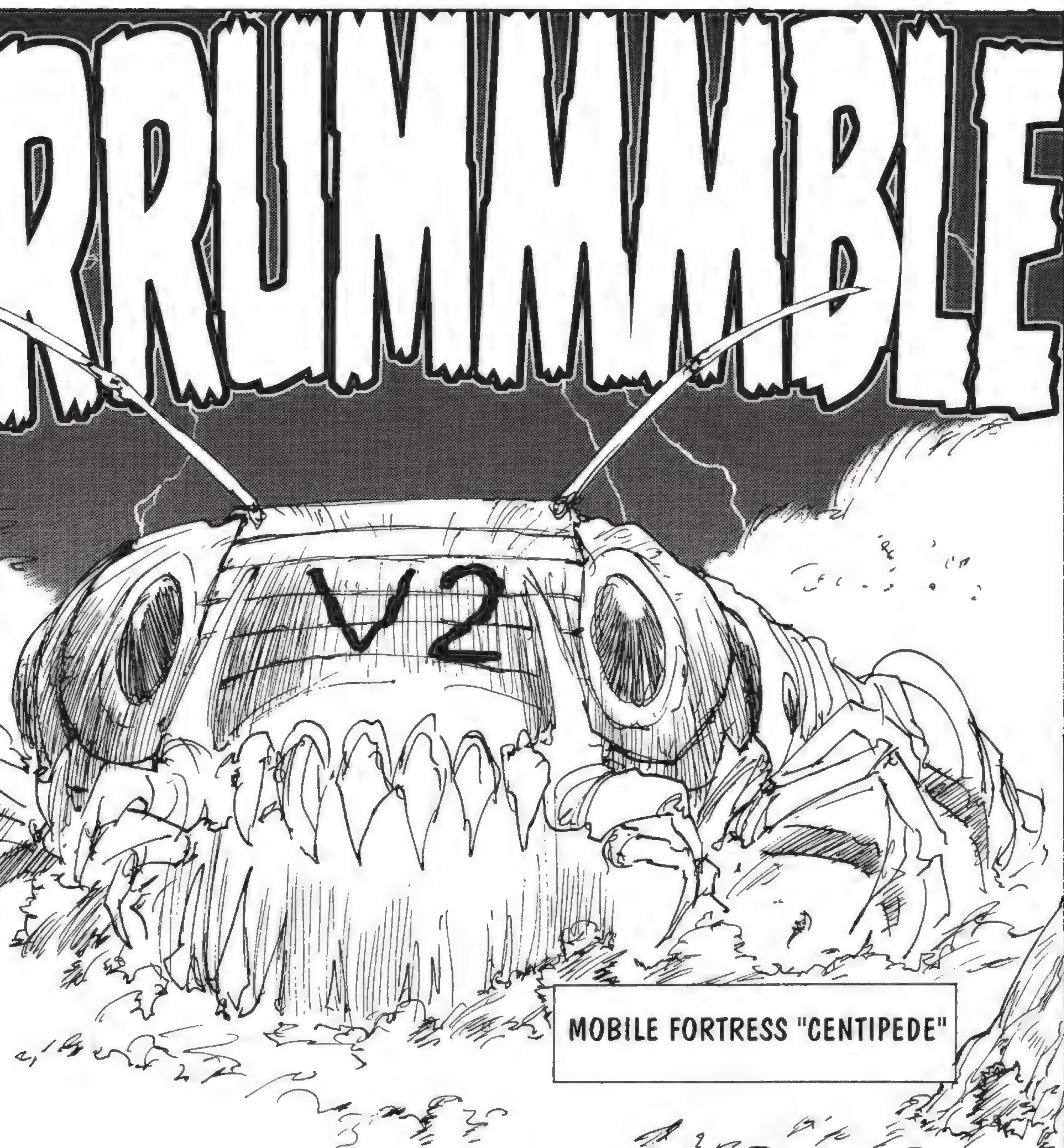
RIGHT,  
LET'S  
GO.

WOW!



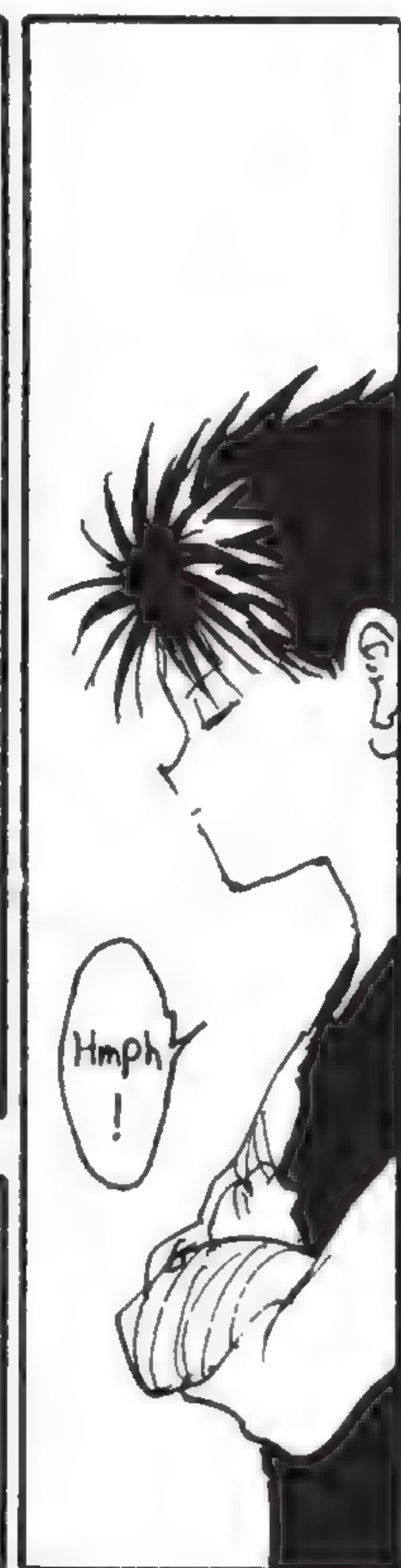
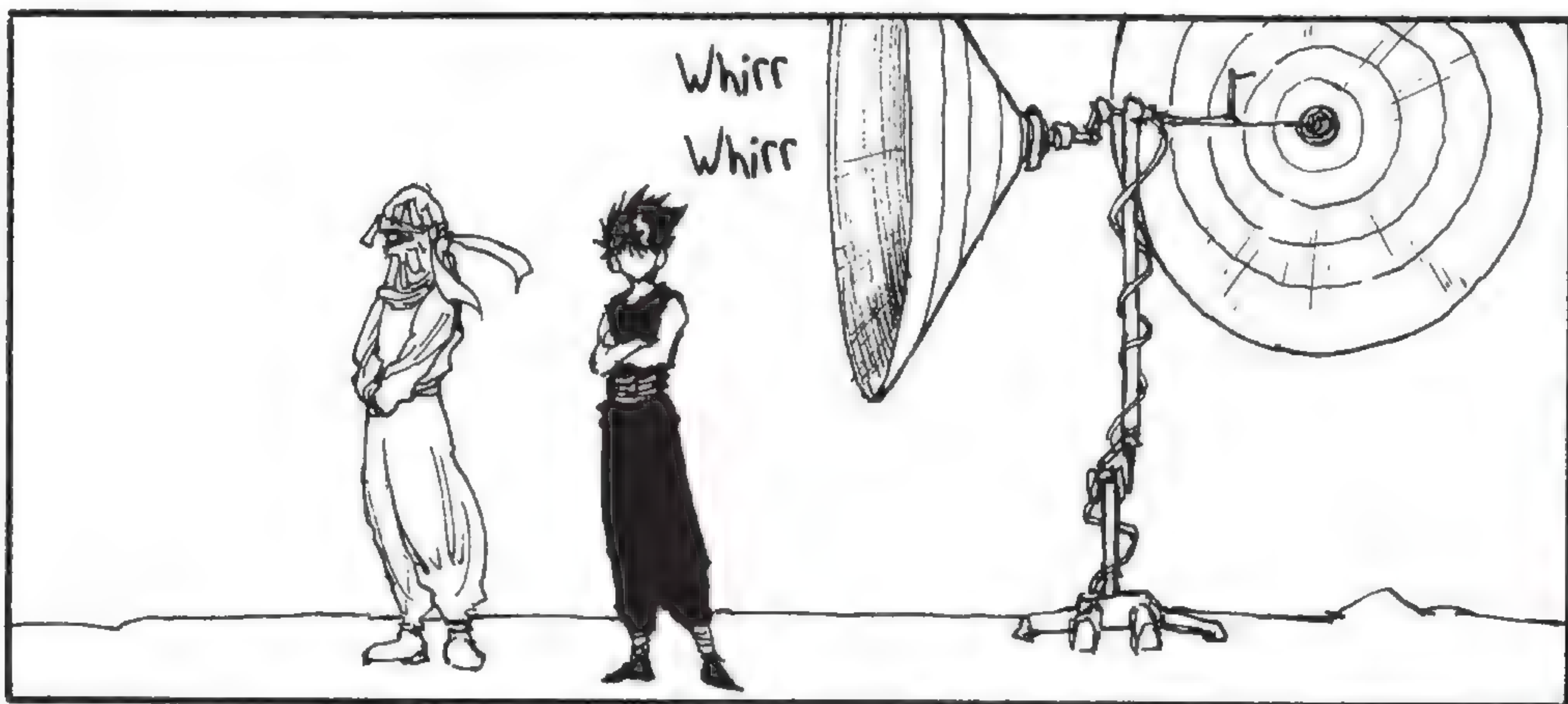
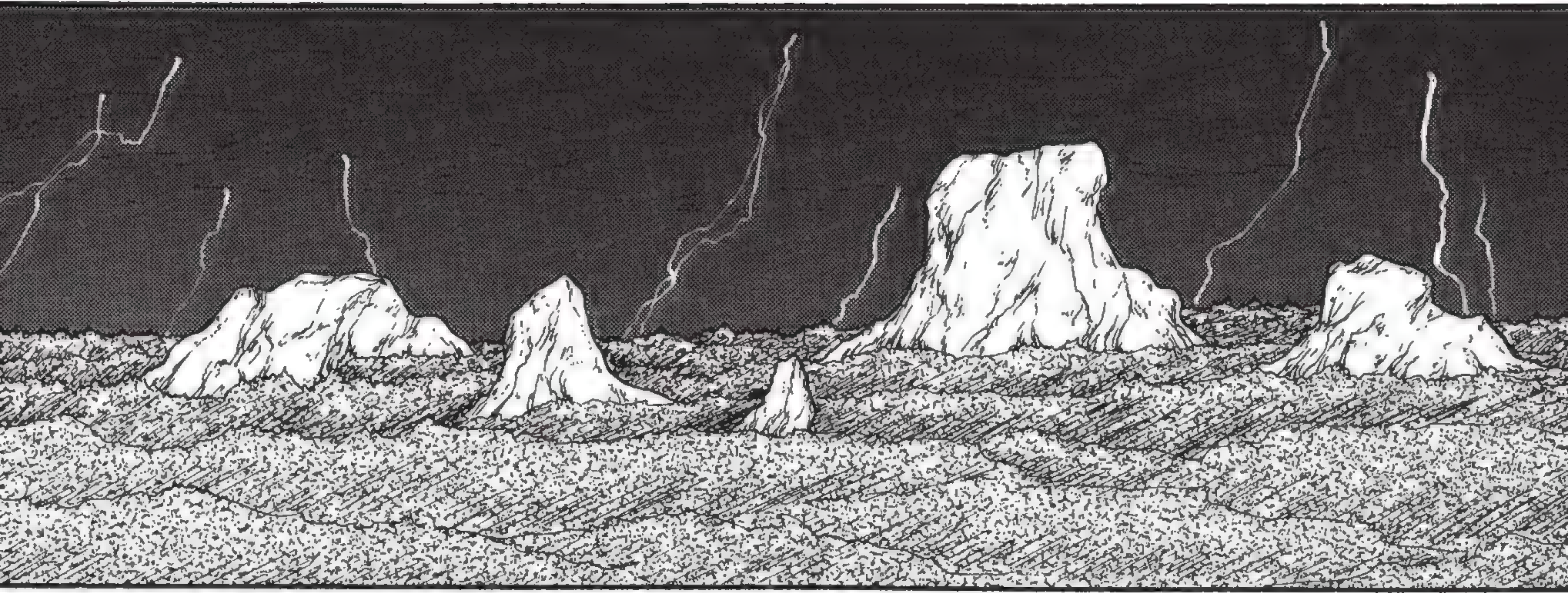




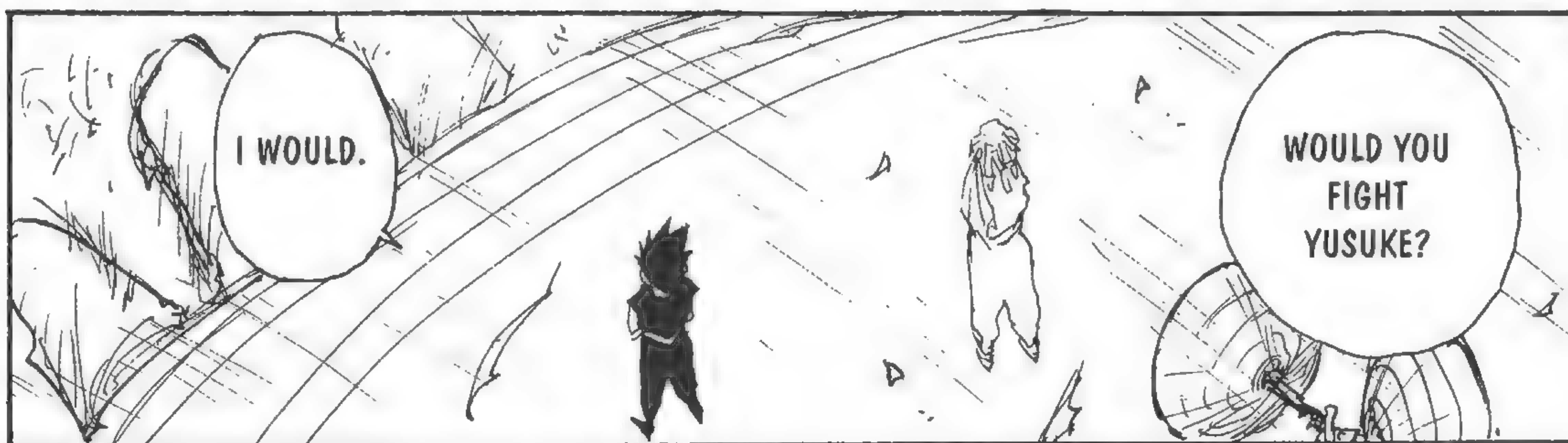
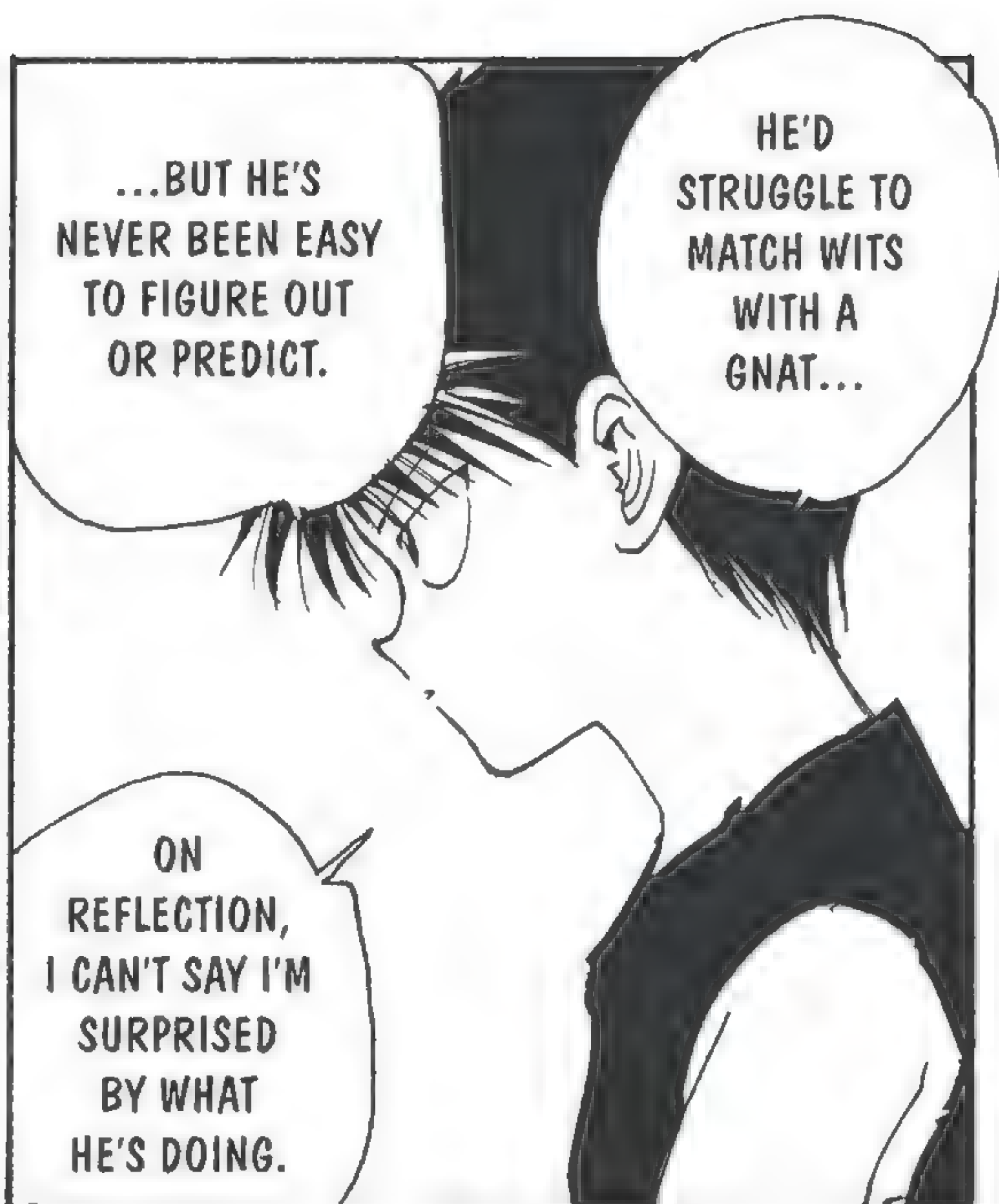
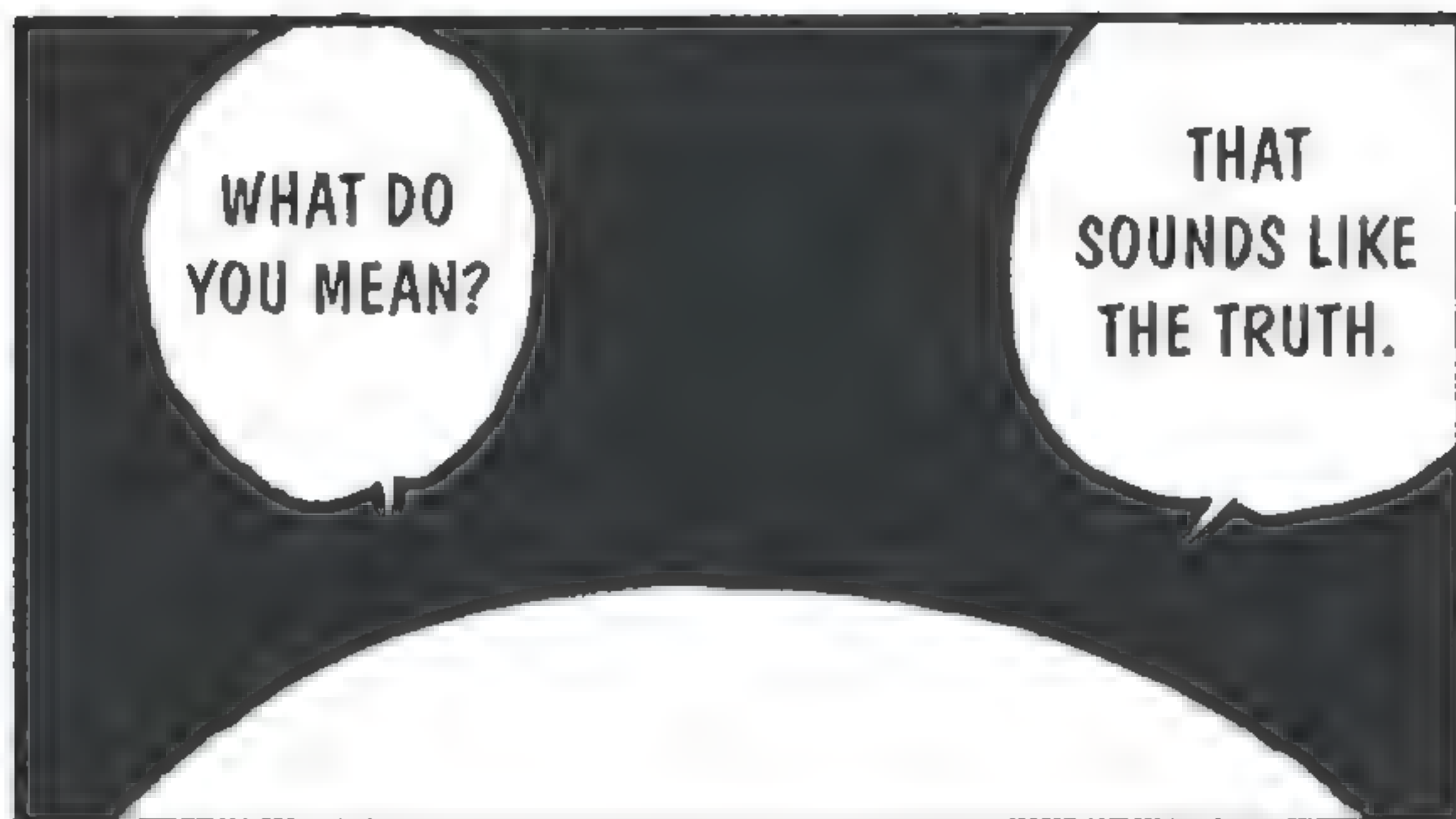


MOBILE FORTRESS "CENTIPEDE"

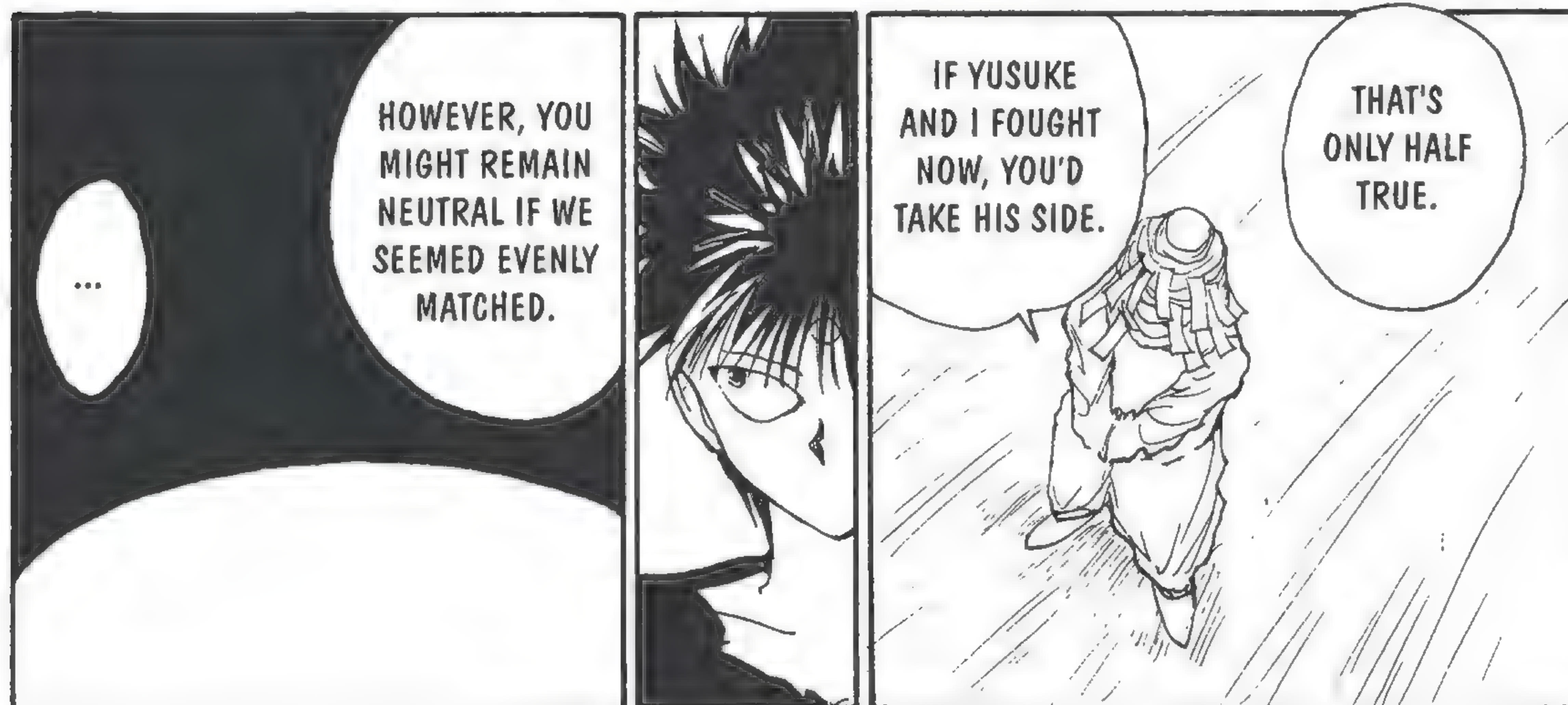
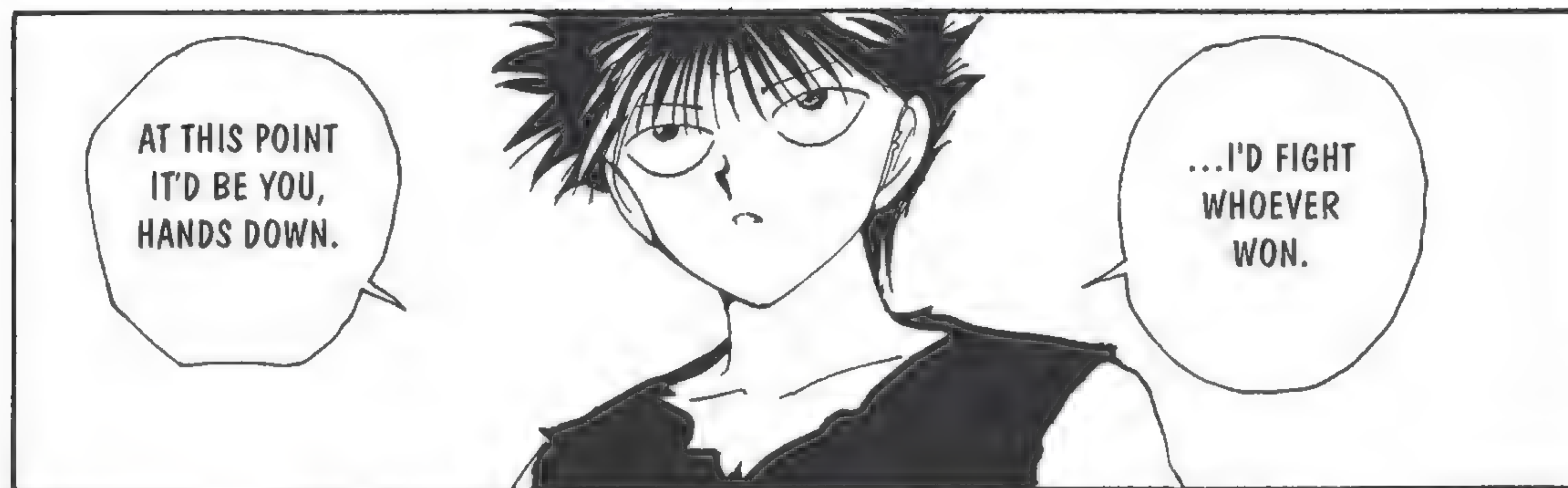




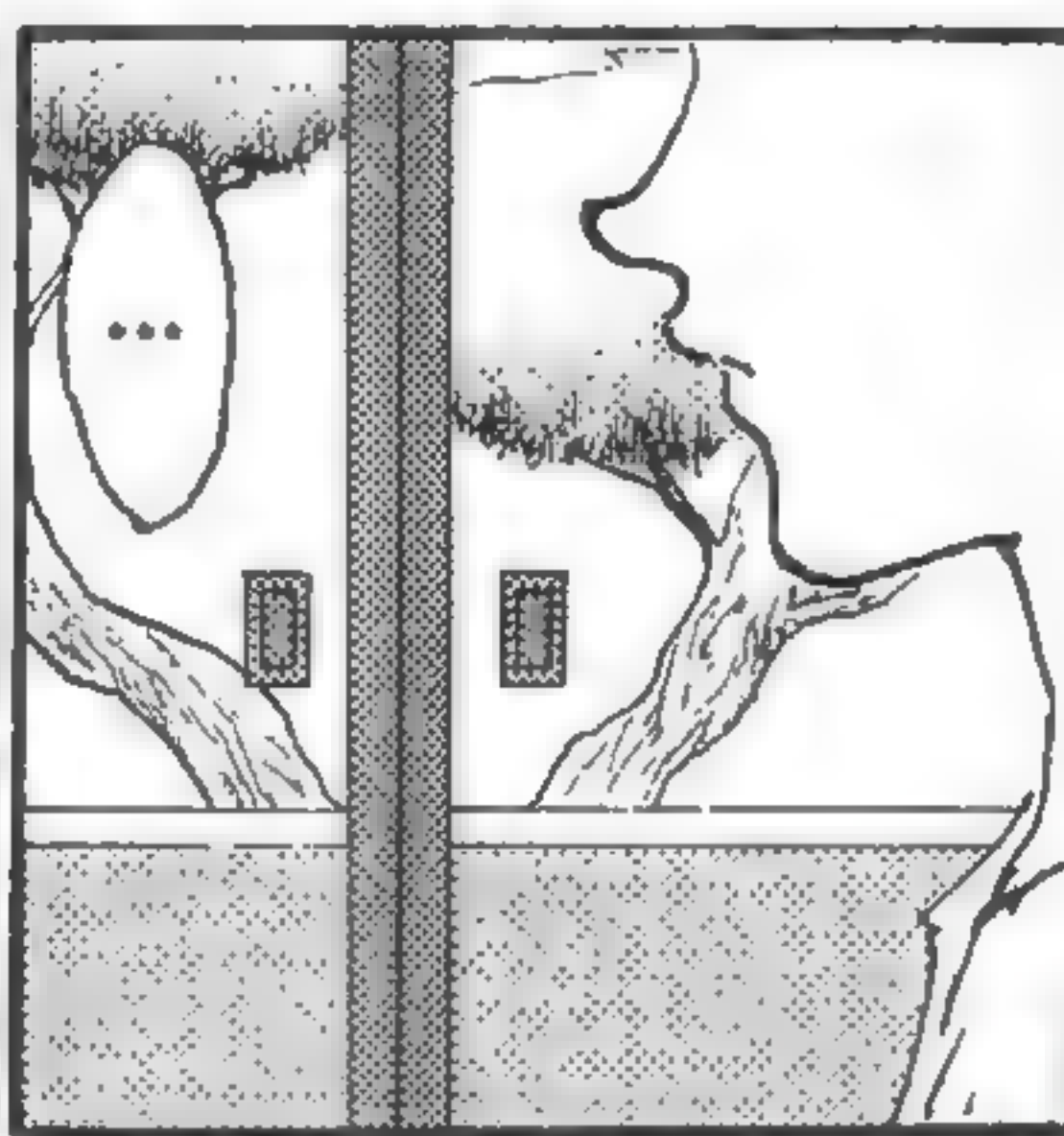
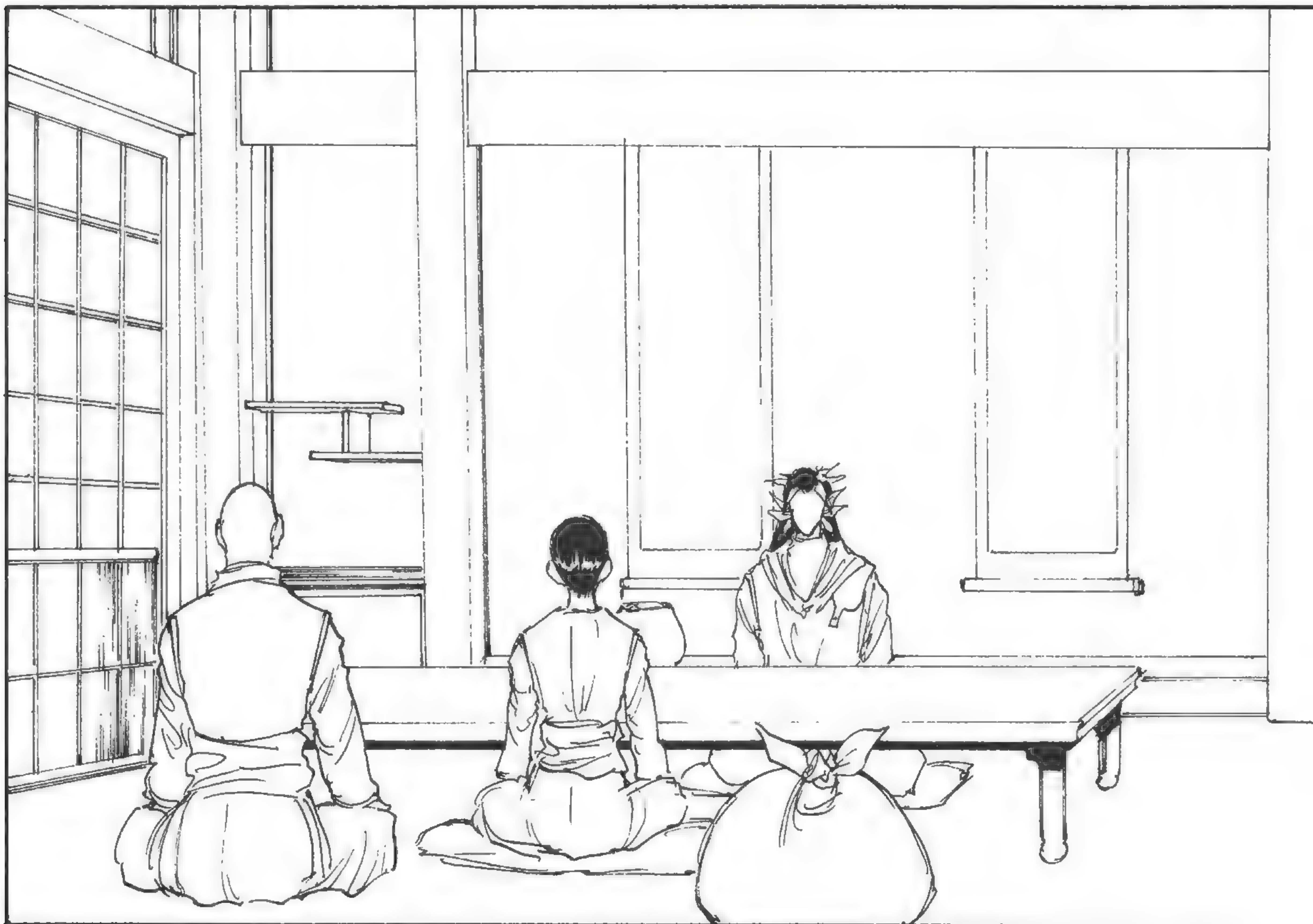
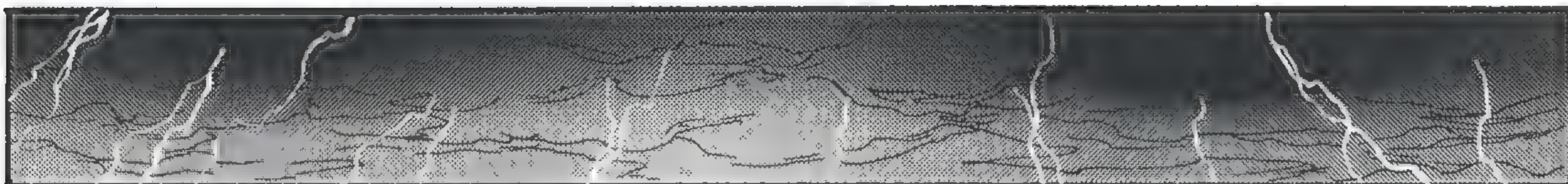




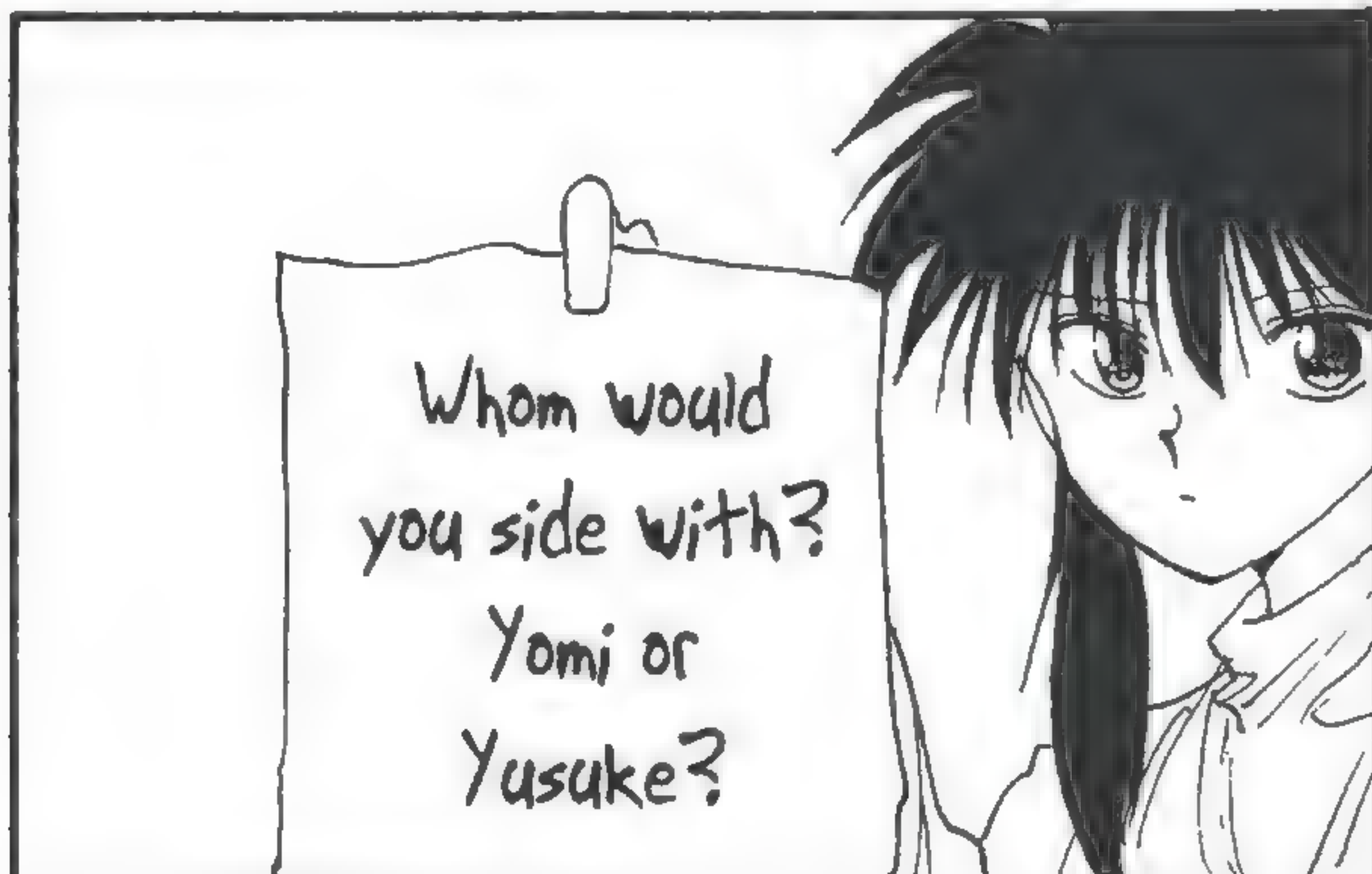
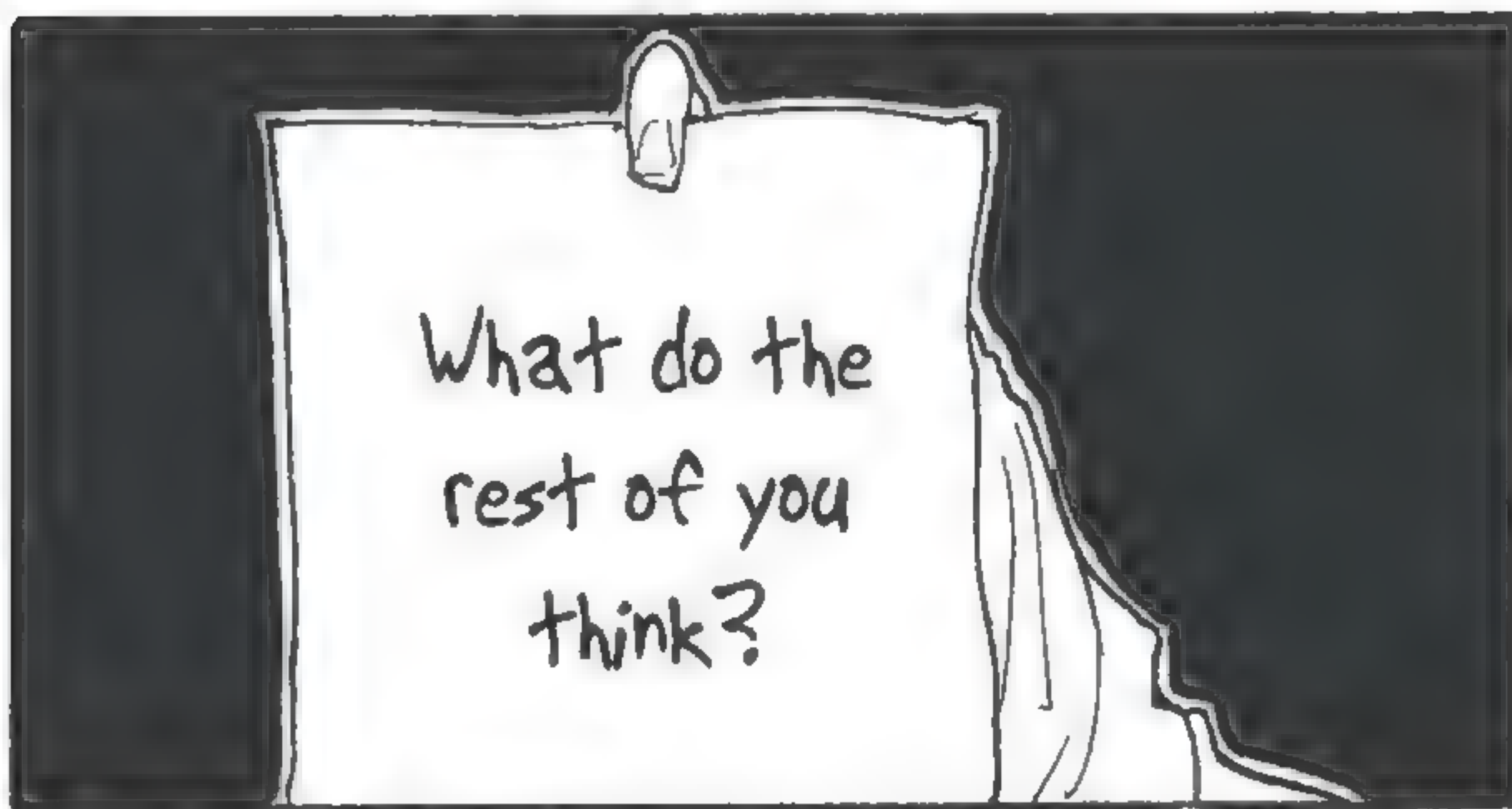
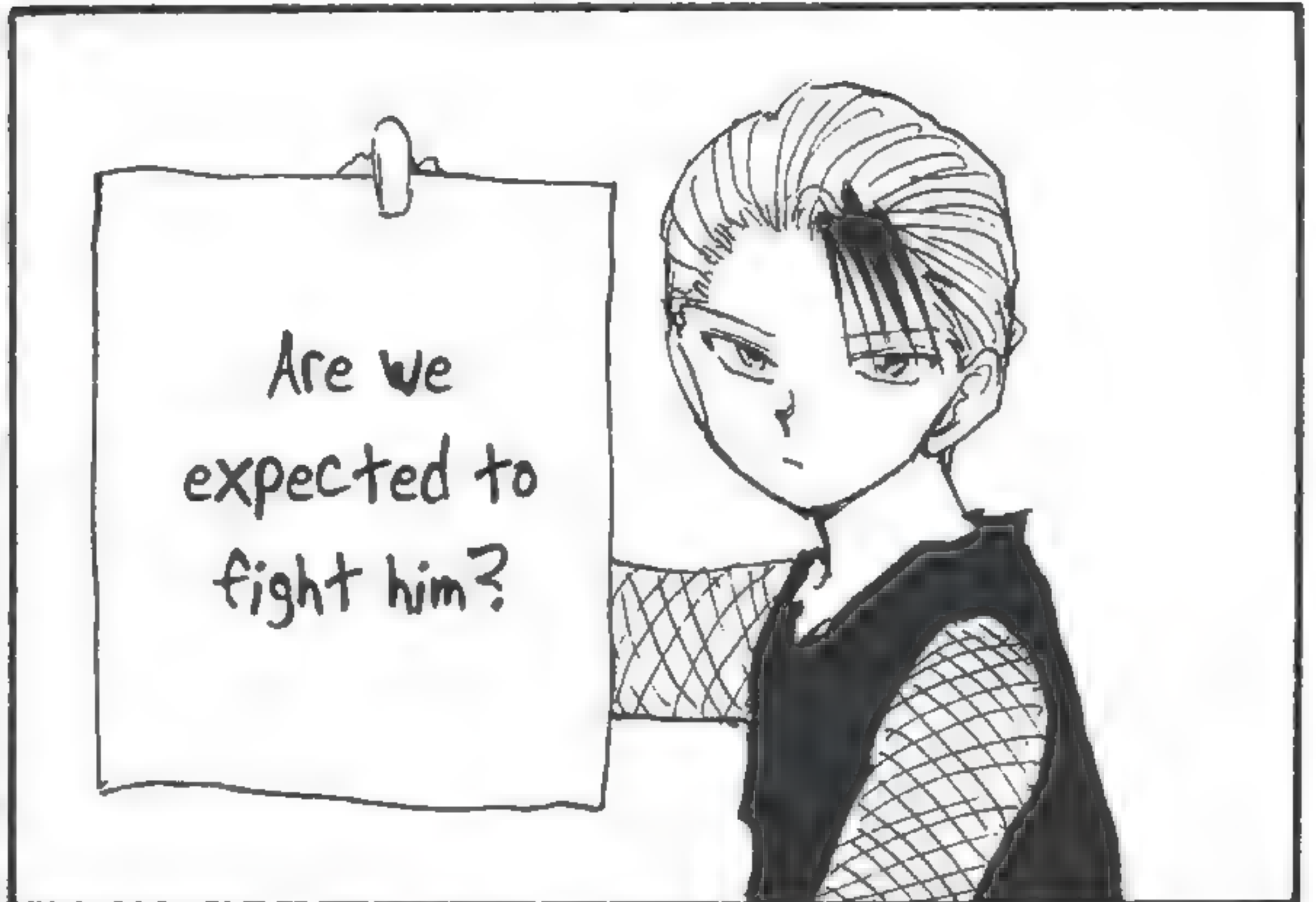




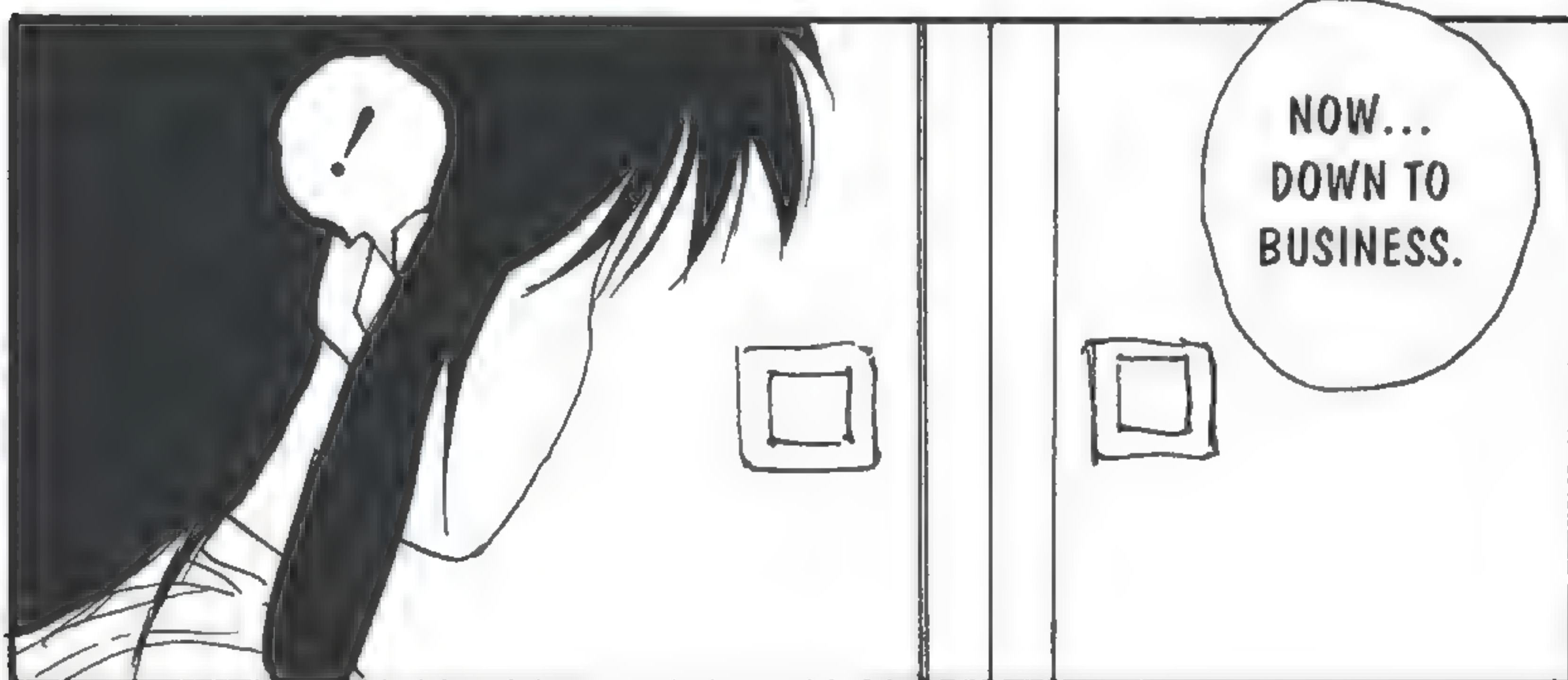
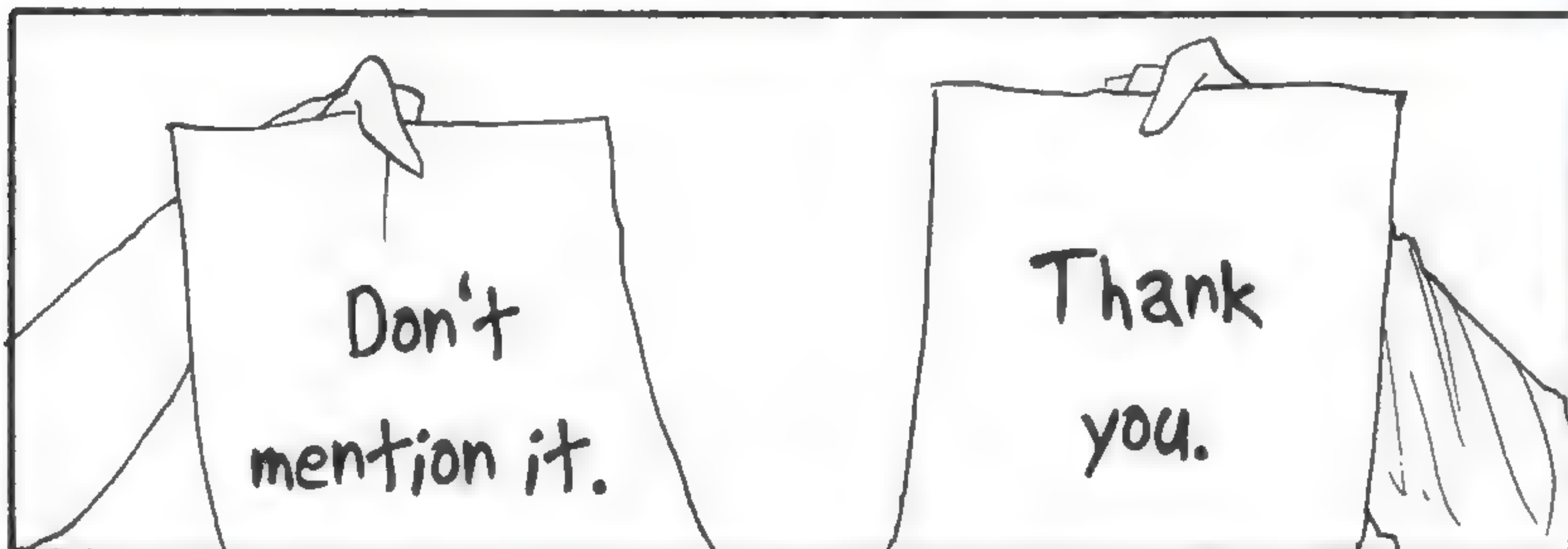








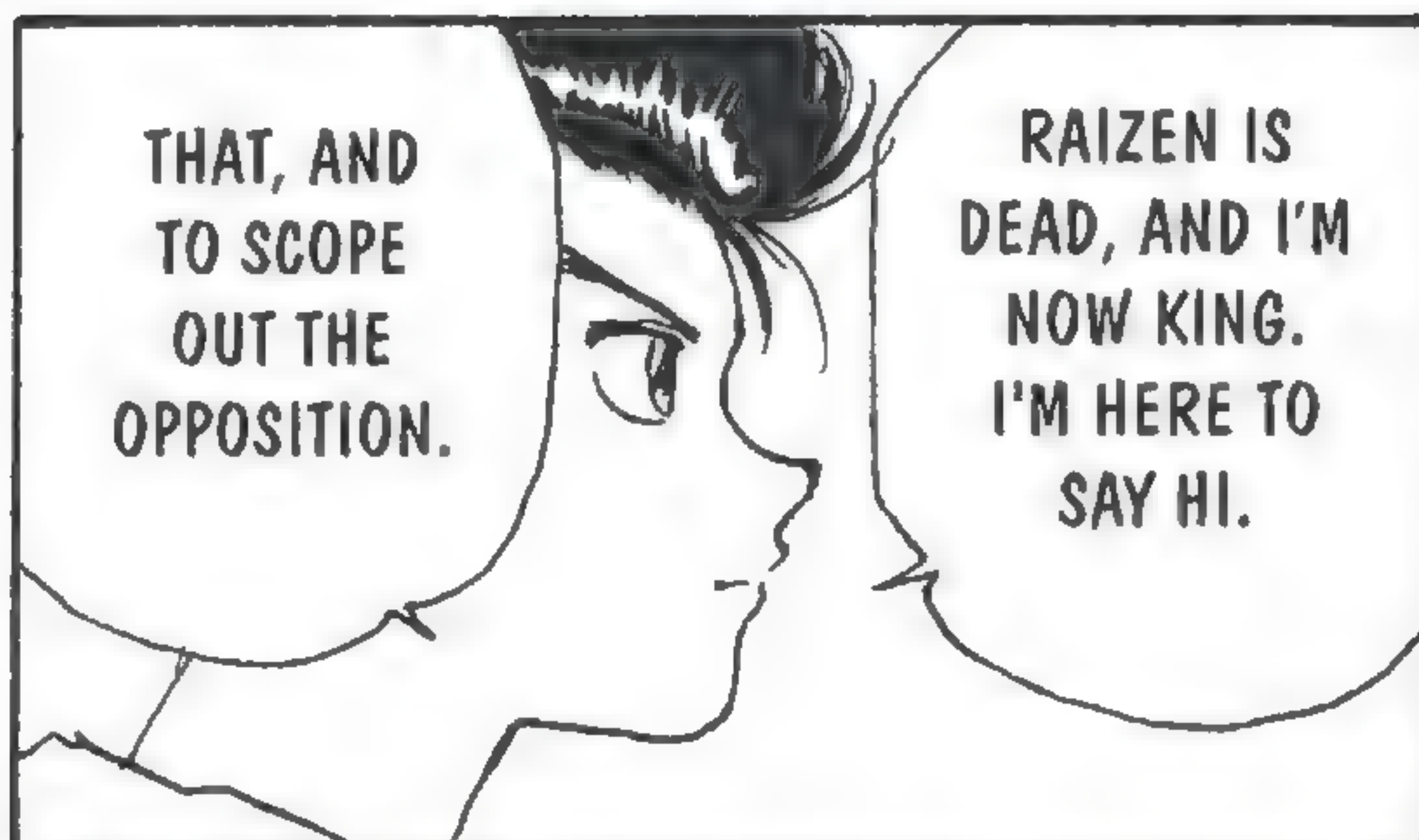




NOW...  
DOWN TO  
BUSINESS.







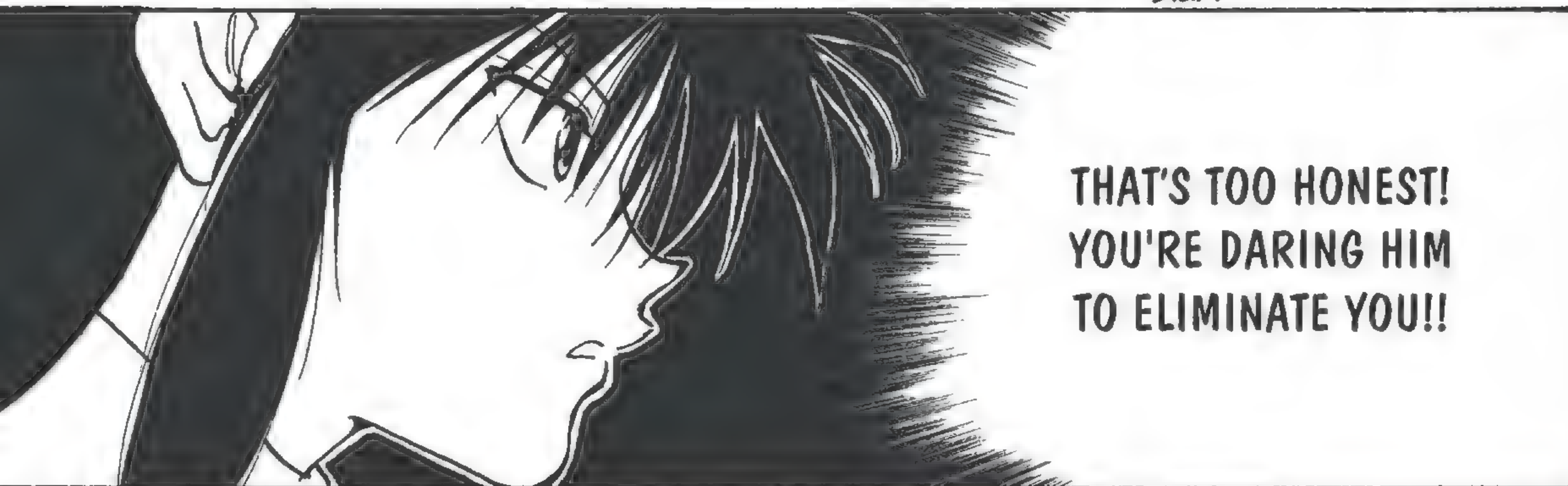
THAT, AND  
TO SCOPE  
OUT THE  
OPPOSITION.

RAIZEN IS  
DEAD, AND I'M  
NOW KING.  
I'M HERE TO  
SAY HI.



BE FRANK. I  
HATE LIES AND  
DISSEMBLING.

*Liar.*

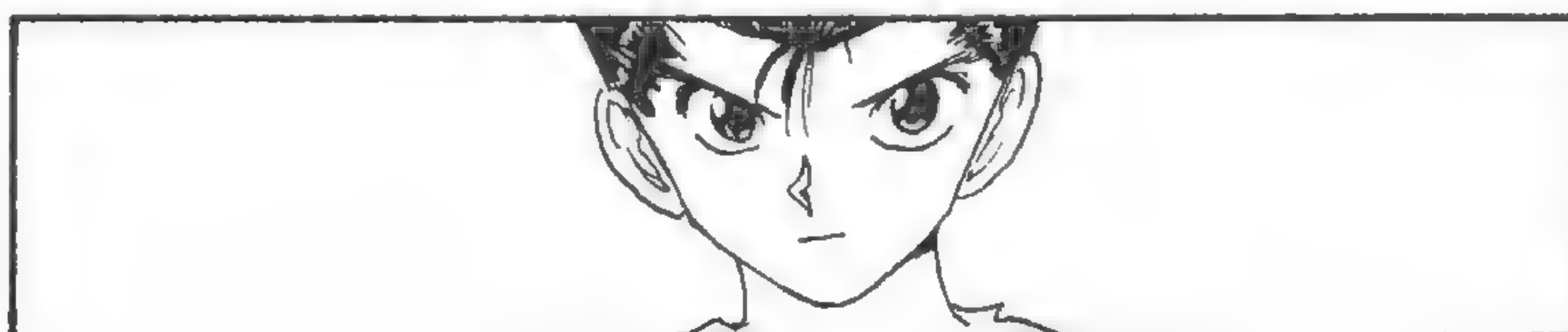


THAT'S TOO HONEST!  
YOU'RE DARING HIM  
TO ELIMINATE YOU!!



IS HE  
READY TO  
STRIKE?!

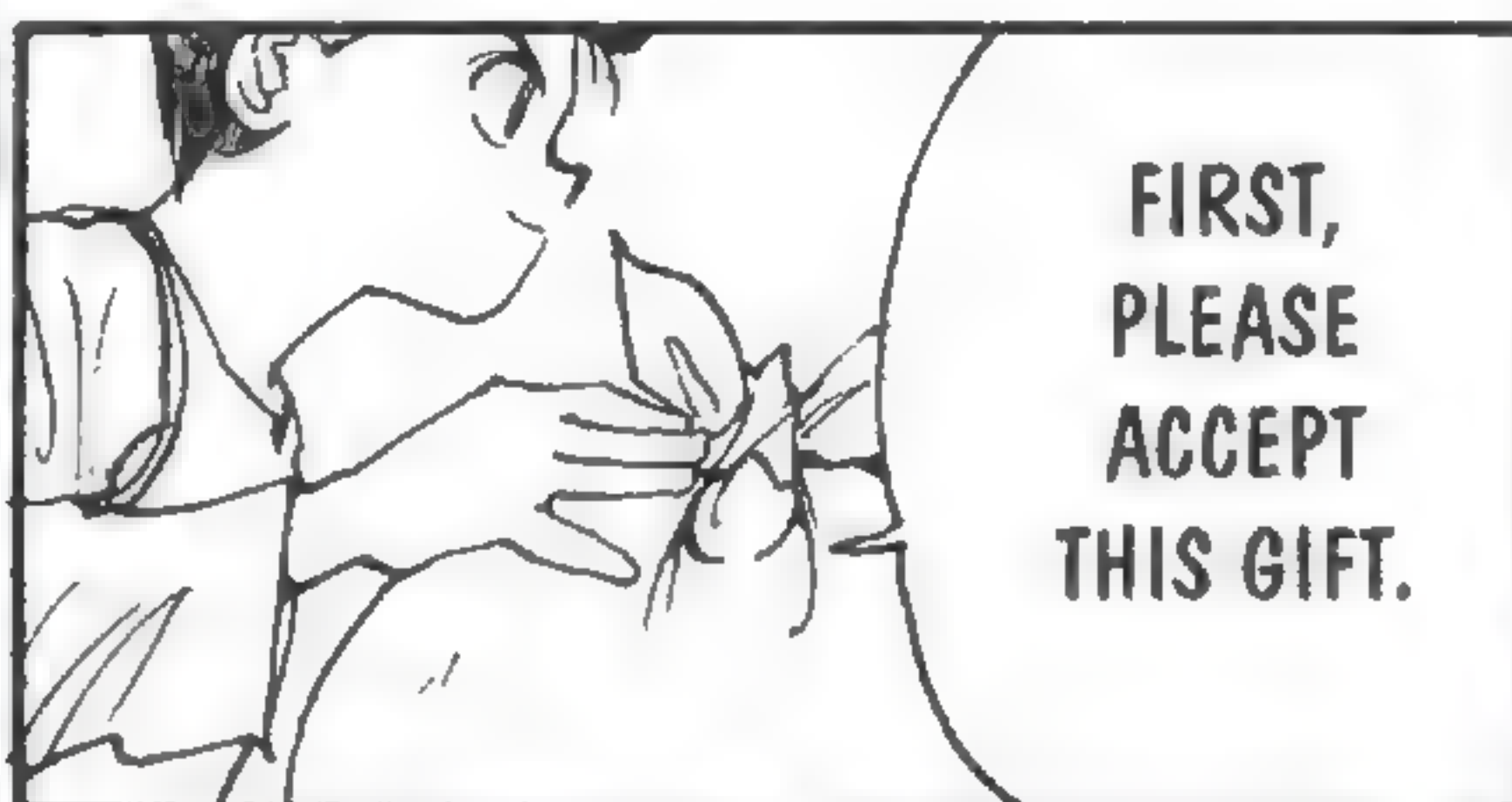
HIS  
DEMONIC  
AURA  
CHANGED!



INDEED?

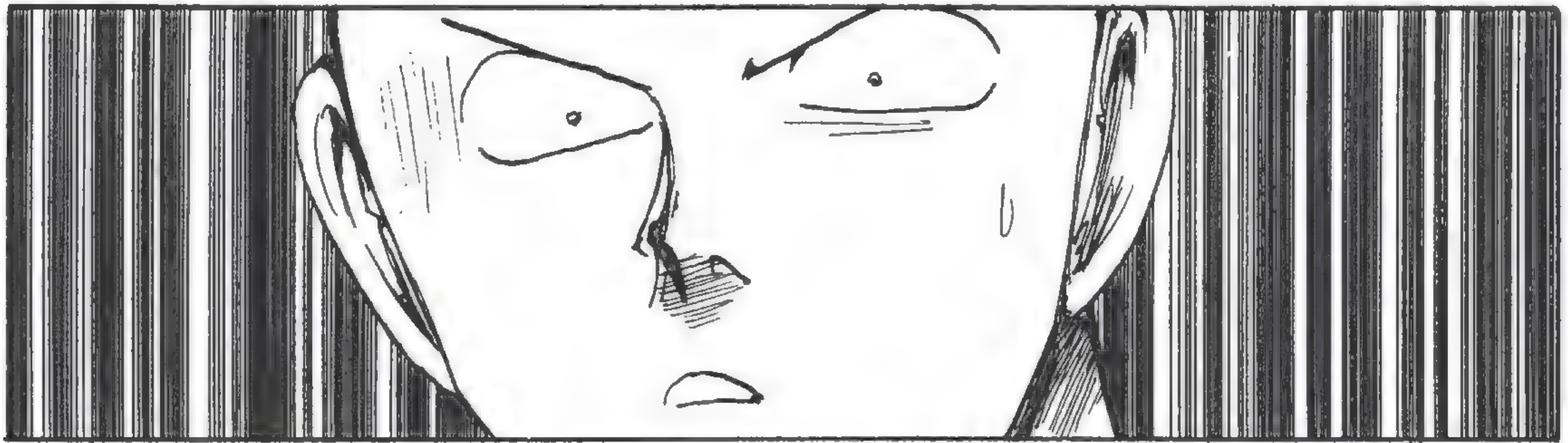
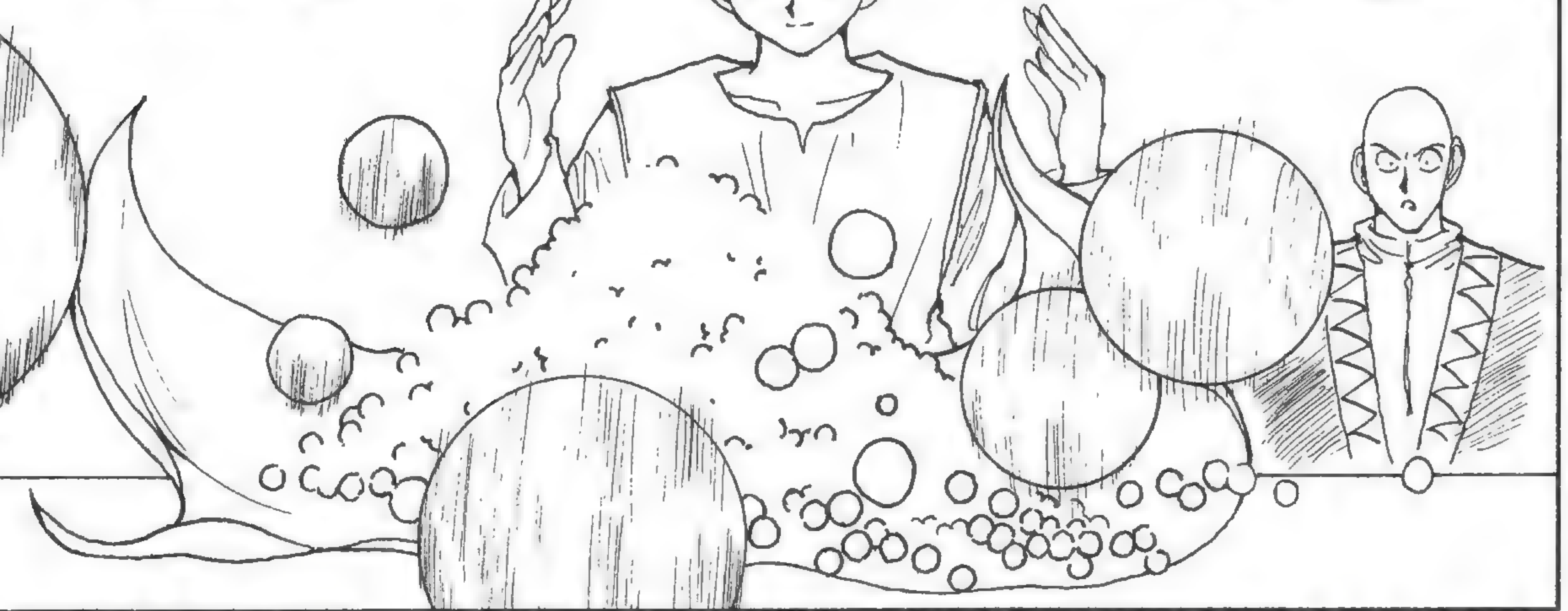
THEN  
ARE YOU  
AMENABLE  
TO A  
REQUEST?







# CLATTER



A SPLENDID  
GESTURE.  
THANK YOU...

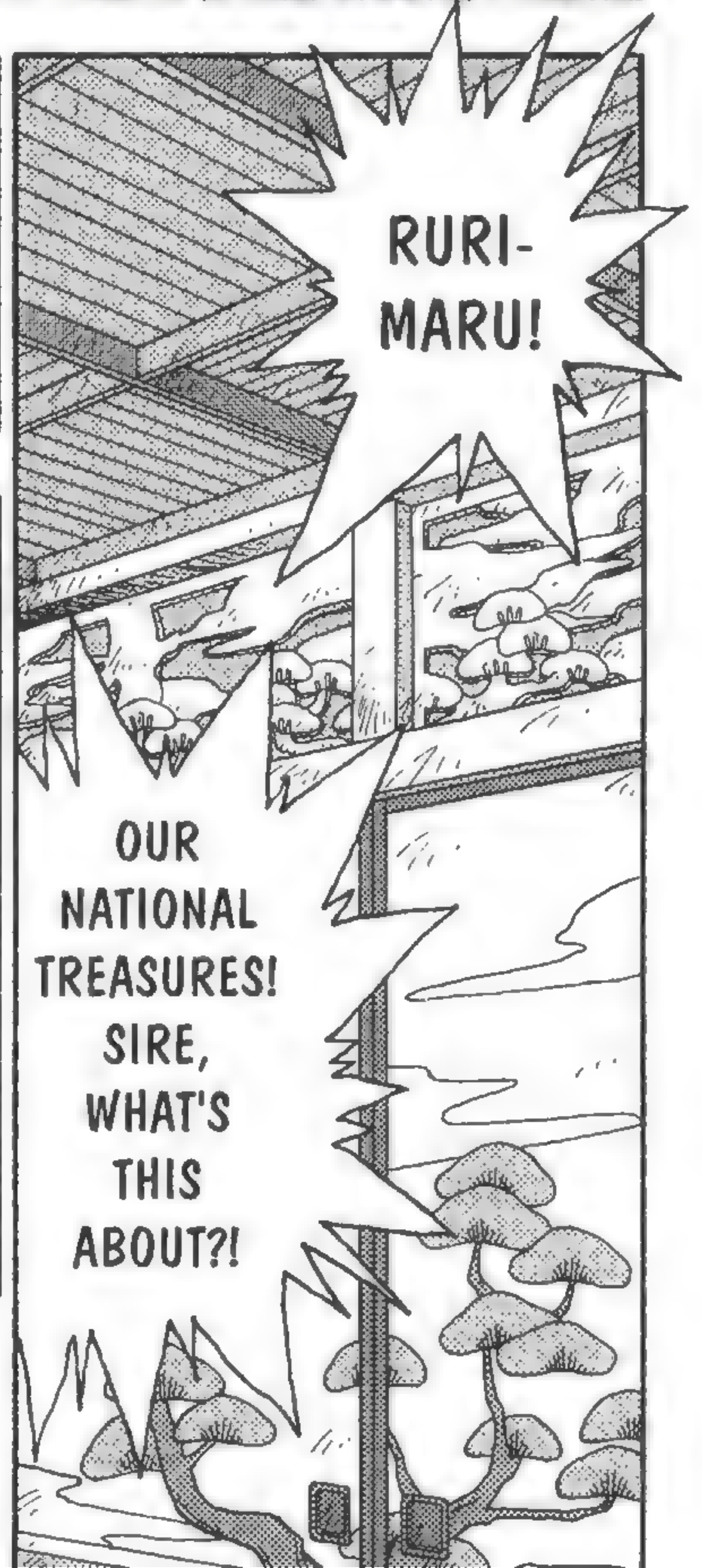
HE WISHES TO  
TALK PEACE?  
NO PROBLEM.



?!

THIS  
TEXTURE...  
THEY'RE QUITE  
GENUINE.

MAY I ASK  
WHY  
YOU'VE...



RURI-  
MARU!

OUR  
NATIONAL  
TREASURES!  
SIRE,  
WHAT'S  
THIS  
ABOUT?!





THIS ONE SAYS  
MUKURO, THIS ONE  
TO-OH... THEY'RE  
ALL LIKE THIS?

THEY'VE BEEN  
ETCHED...  
WITH NAMES.



THAT'S  
JUST...  
OUTRAGEOUS!  
APPALLING!

YOU  
ETCHED  
THE  
RURI-  
MARU?!



...WE  
COULD PLAY  
MAHJONG,  
THE BY-FEEL  
VERSION.

YEP.  
AS FOR  
WHY...



THING IS, I DON'T  
HAVE THE SMARTS  
OR PATIENCE TO BE  
A LEADER. I'M A  
PERSONAL COMBAT  
KINDA GUY.

AFTER  
RAIZEN DIED,  
I DID A LOT  
OF THINKING.

*Snooping-bugs set up outside by Mukuro.*



?

?

THESE  
STONES ARE  
FOR DRAWING  
LOTS.



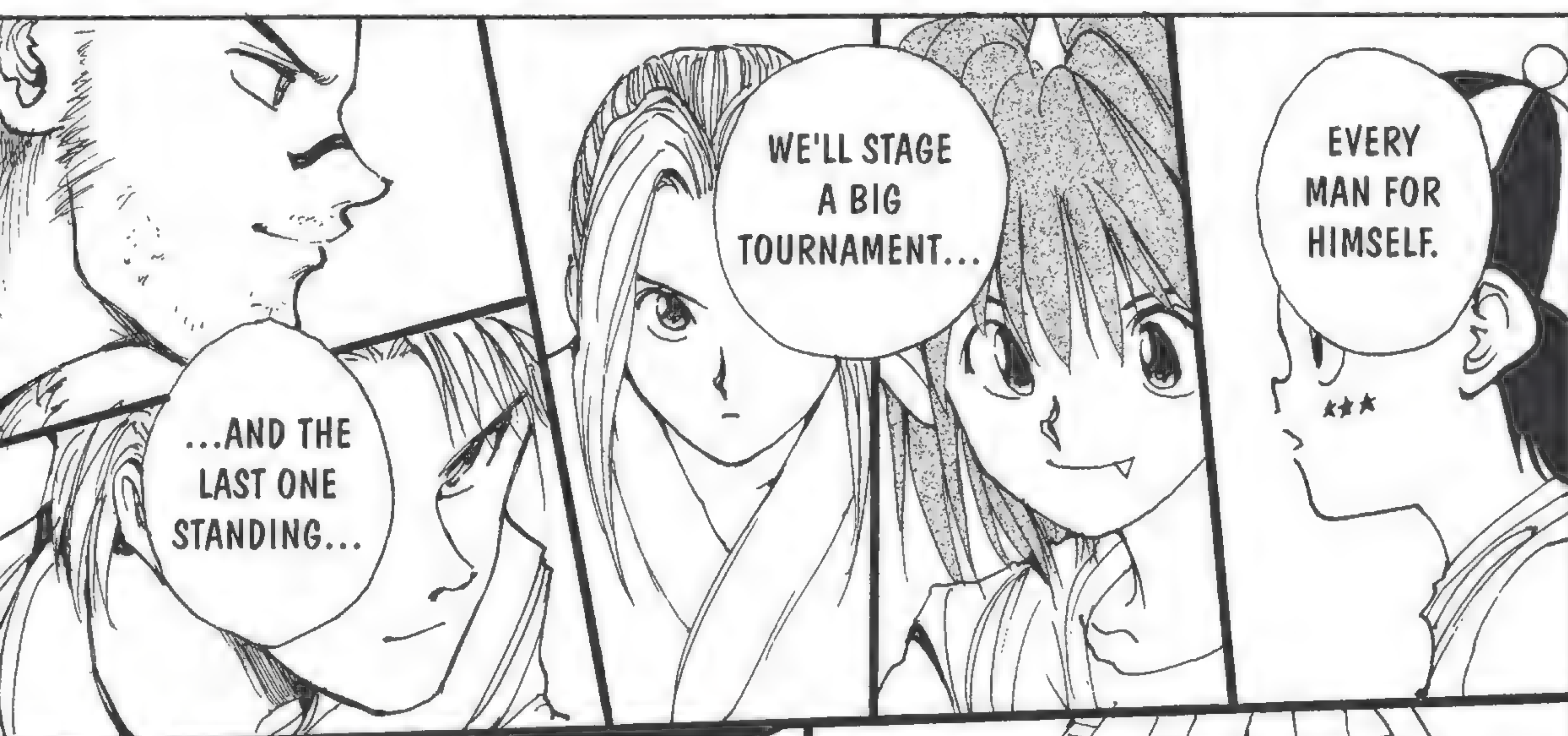


...AND JUST  
DUKE IT OUT  
BETWEEN US.

I SAY LET'S  
FORGET ABOUT  
COUNTRIES...



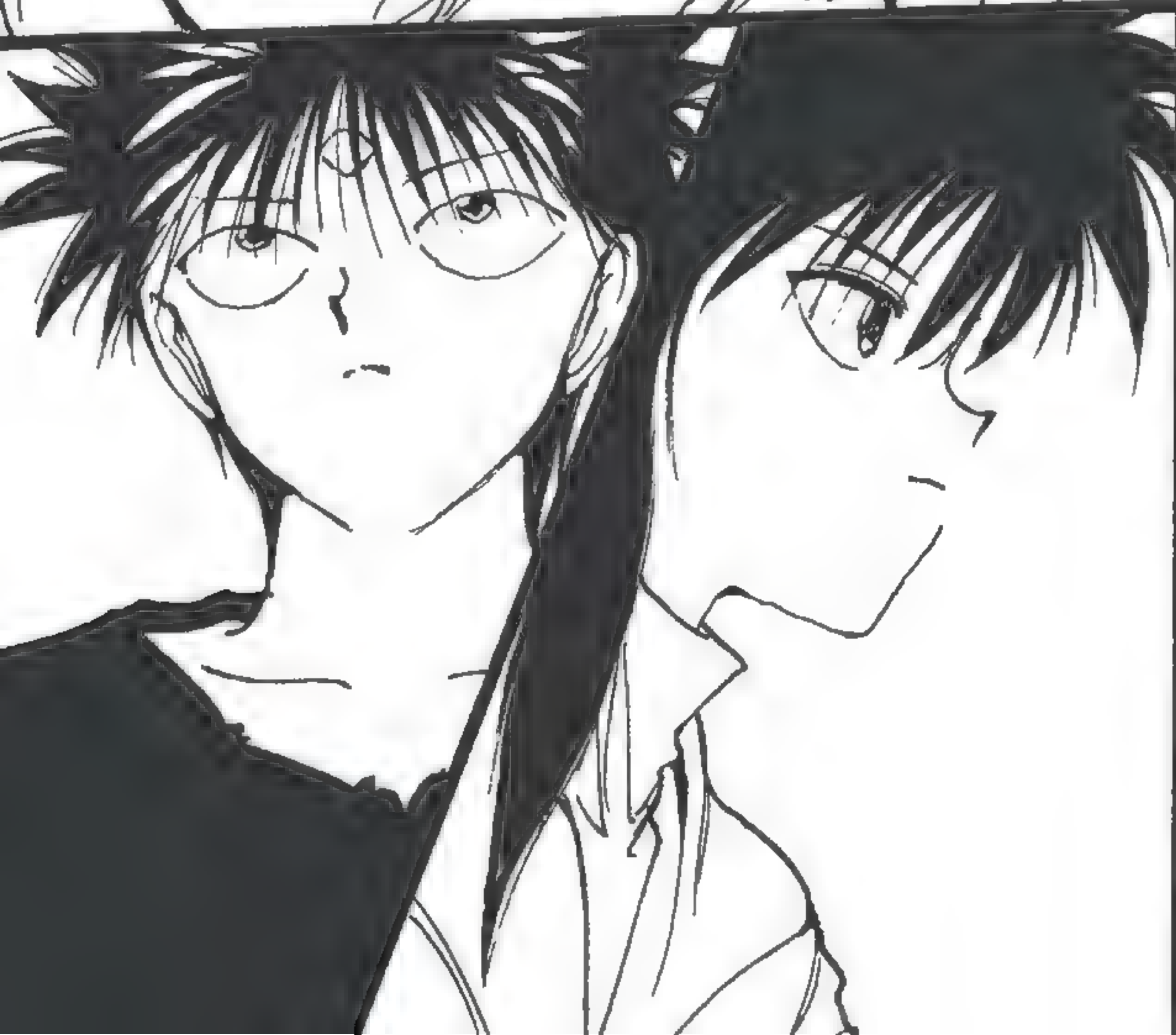
EH...?



...AND THE  
LAST ONE  
STANDING...

WE'LL STAGE  
A BIG  
TOURNAMENT...

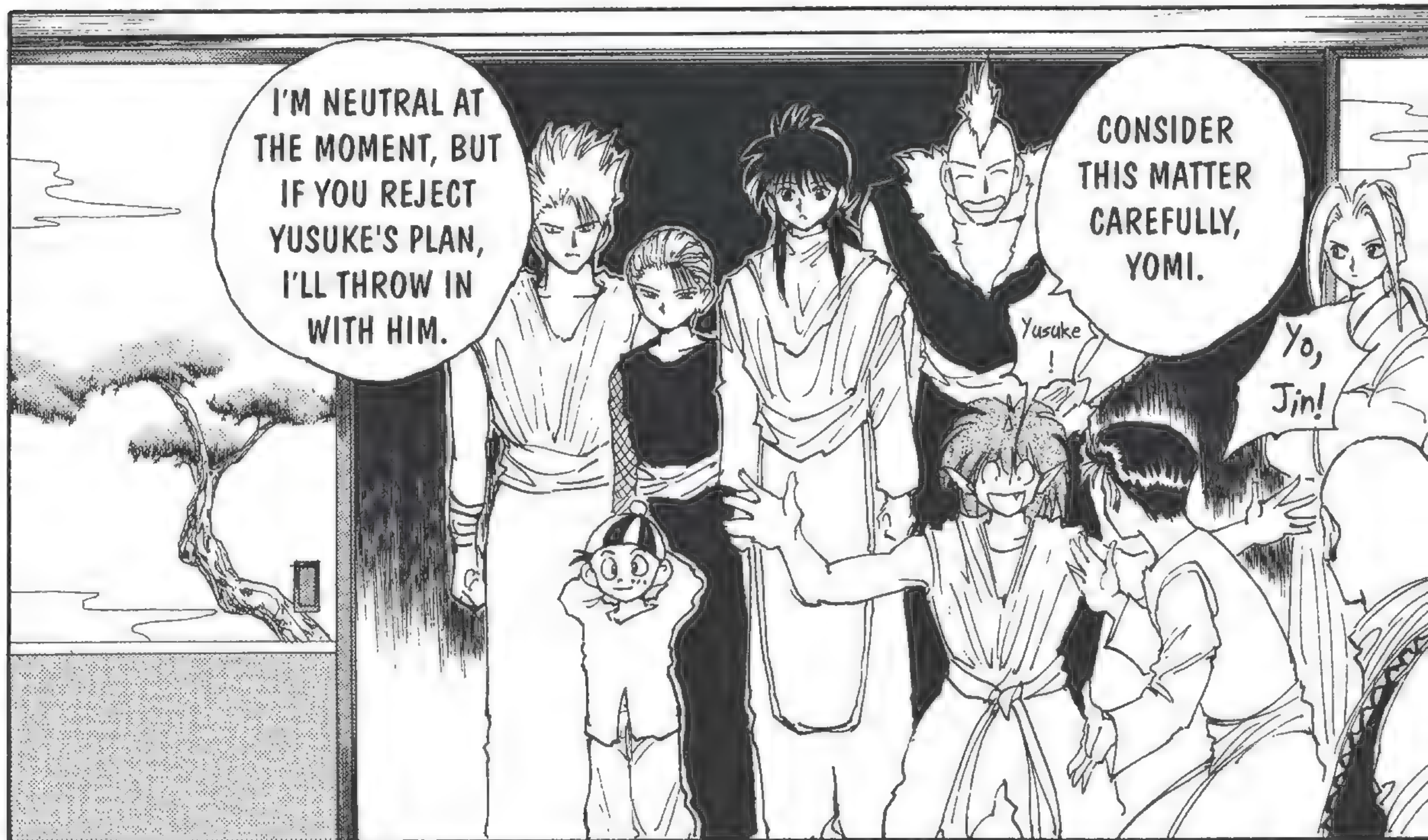
EVERY  
MAN FOR  
HIMSELF.



...WILL GET  
ALL THE  
MARBLES.





















YOMI AGREED TO YUSUKE'S PROPOSAL ONCE HE LEARNED OF MUKURO'S RESPONSE TO KURAMA'S COUP. YOMI COULD'VE KILLED KURAMA, HIS SQUAD, AND YUSUKE ON THE SPOT...

...BUT THAT WOULD'VE MEANT EXPENDING A THIRD OF HIS MANPOWER RIGHT WHEN MUKURO WAS ON THE MOVE AND HEADING HIS WAY. HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT YUSUKE'S TERMS.

## VISITORS



MUKURO'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PLAN AND DISMISSAL OF THAT NATION'S ARMY WAS FURTHER INCENTIVE.

I IGNORED MUKURO'S BUGS SO THEY'D FEED HER MISINFORMATION, BUT THEN THAT BACKFIRED.



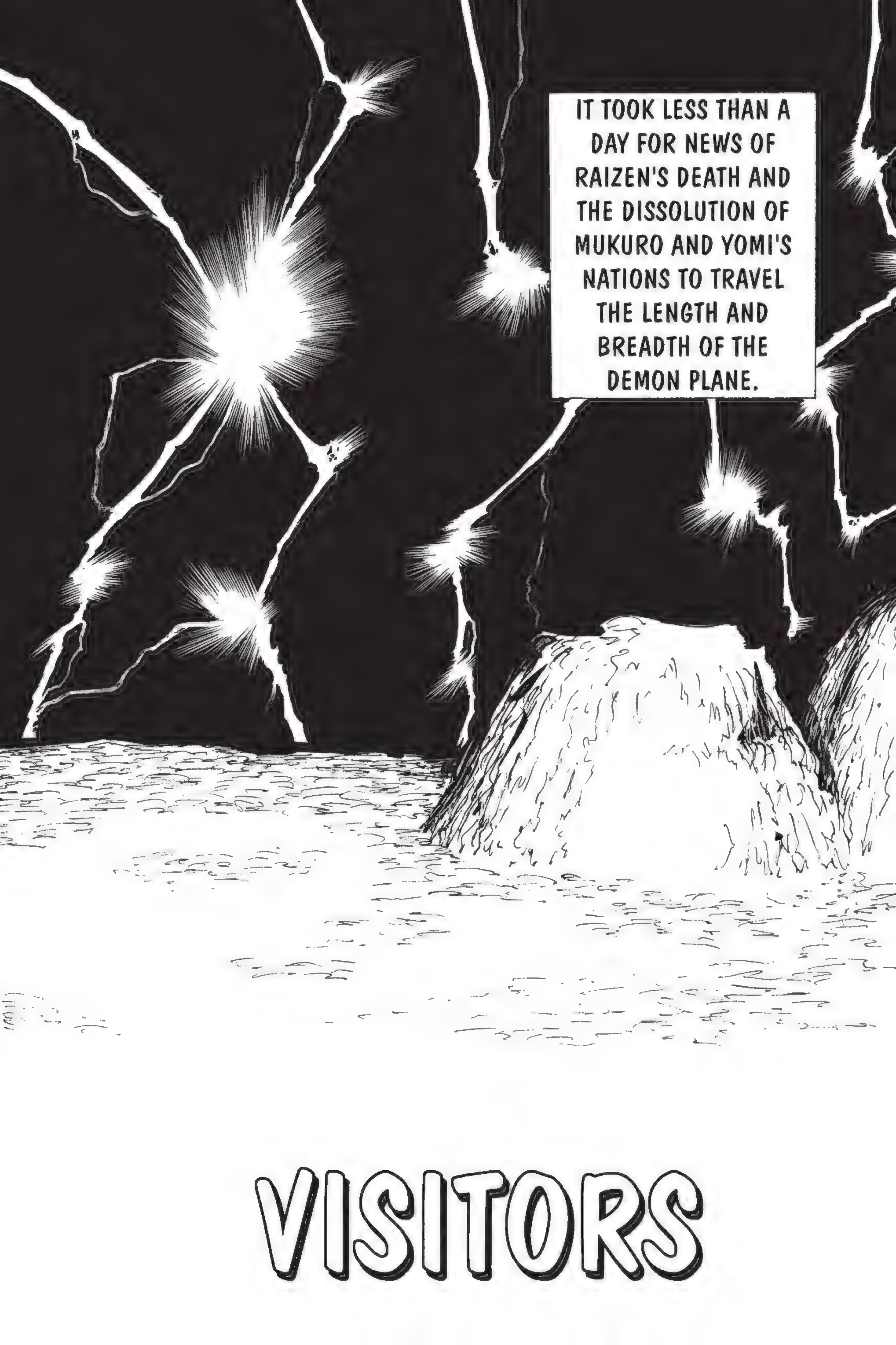
...THE WARRIOR SPIRIT IN EACH INDIVIDUAL. IT'S NOT AN APPROACH THAT EVER OCCURRED TO ME.

HE'S MADE ALLIANCES NOT THROUGH TALK AND TREATIES BUT BY CONNECTING DIRECTLY WITH...

...IS LIKE NO MAN I'VE EVER MET.

YUSUKE URAMESHI...

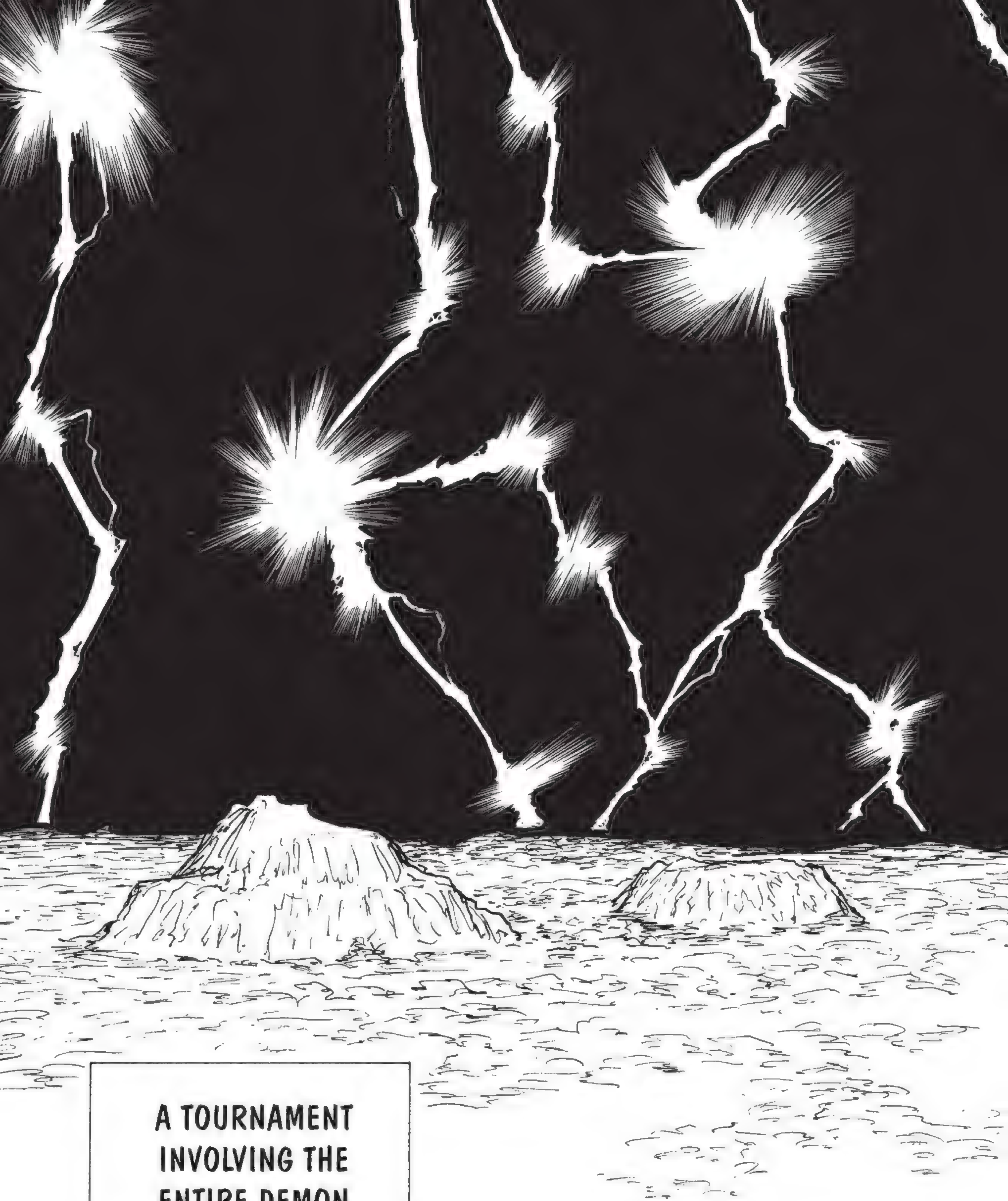




IT TOOK LESS THAN A  
DAY FOR NEWS OF  
RAIZEN'S DEATH AND  
THE DISSOLUTION OF  
MUKURO AND YOMI'S  
NATIONS TO TRAVEL  
THE LENGTH AND  
BREADTH OF THE  
DEMON PLANE.

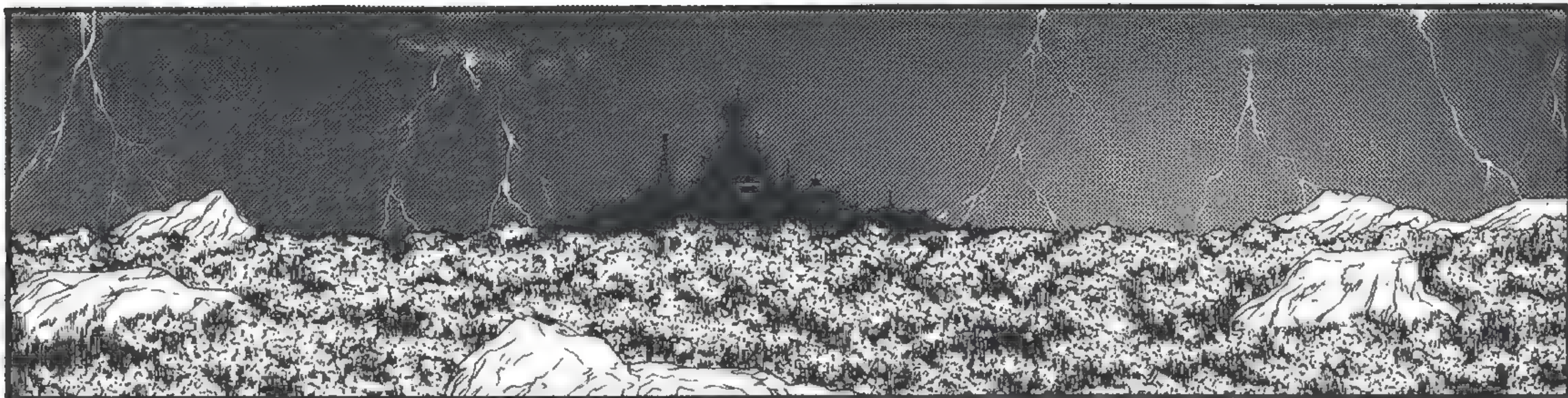
# VISITORS





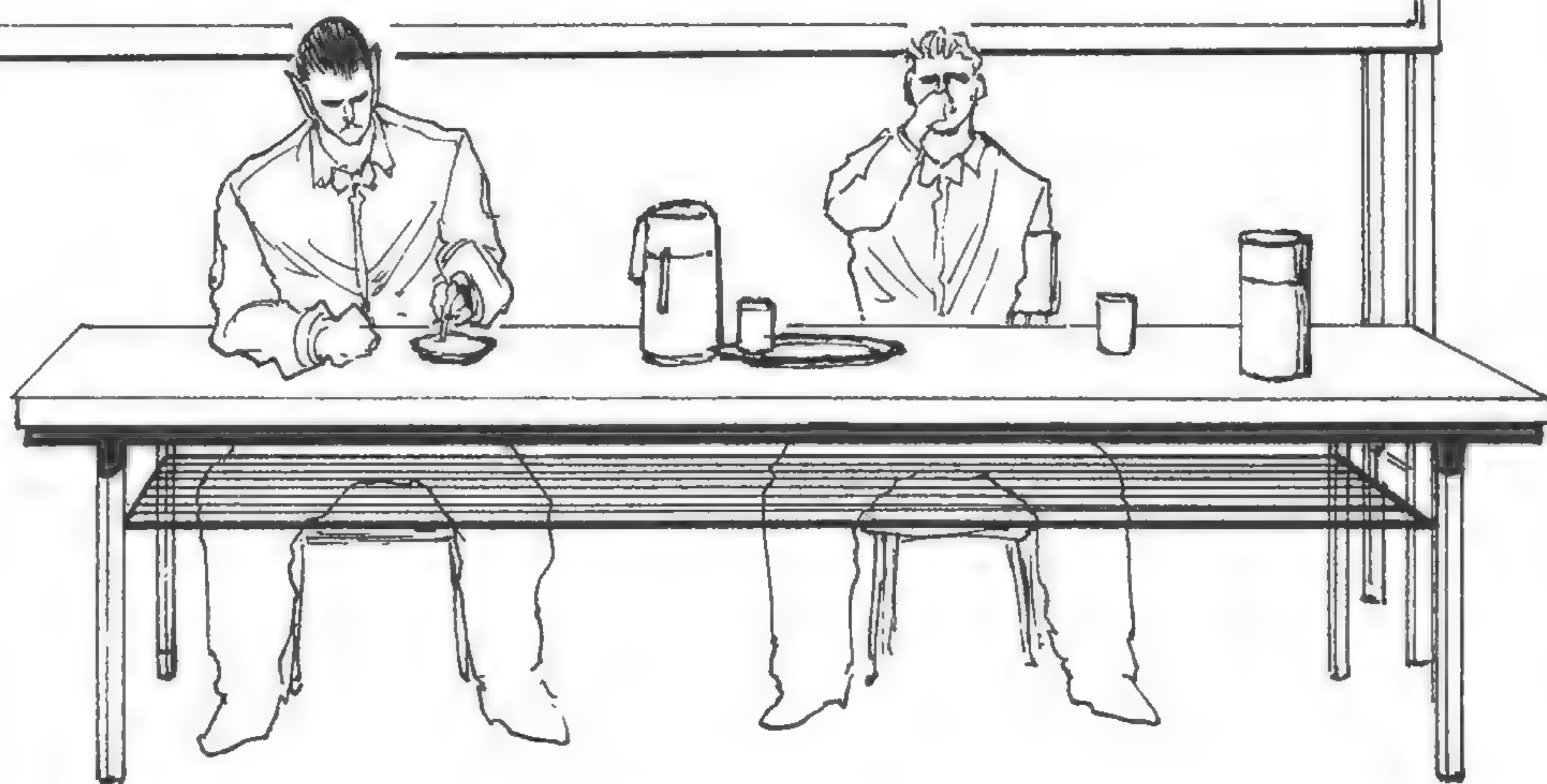
A TOURNAMENT  
INVOLVING THE  
ENTIRE DEMON  
PLANE WAS SOON  
ORGANIZED AND  
OPENED TO ALL  
COMERS.





## TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION A-2

Sign Up Now! You Won't Want To Miss This One!



Hourly wage: 700 Marka

ONLY THOSE  
WITH A DEATH  
WISH WOULD  
SIGN UP.

IT'S A DUEL  
BETWEEN  
MUKURO AND  
LORD YOMI.

IT'S BEEN A WEEK  
AND WE'VE ONLY  
SIGNED UP MUKURO,  
HIS FOLLOWERS,  
AND A FEW  
OTHERS.

WHAT A  
DEAD-END  
GIG.

...SO  
THEY'RE  
WAITING TO  
SEE WHO  
WINS.

EVERYONE'S  
AFRAID TO BE  
LABELED A  
TRAITOR...





YOMI AND  
MUKURO,  
THE  
REMAINING  
SUPERPOWERS,  
HAD EVERYONE  
COWED.

THUS HE WAS ABLE TO  
MAINTAIN A NATION-  
IN-BEING. NOBODY  
DARED DEFY HIM.

YOMI HAD ALL  
OF GANDARA  
REGISTER FOR THE  
TOURNAMENT.

AS A CONDITION OF HIS  
ACCEPTANCE, YOMI ASKED  
THAT THE TOURNAMENT BE  
HELD 100 DAYS FROM THE  
DISSOLUTION OF NATIONS.  
YUSUKE AND MUKURO  
AGREED TO THIS.



YUSUKE URAMESHI...  
YOU WANT A TEST OF  
METTLE, BUT IT WILL  
COME DOWN TO A  
BATTLE OF WITS IN  
THE END.

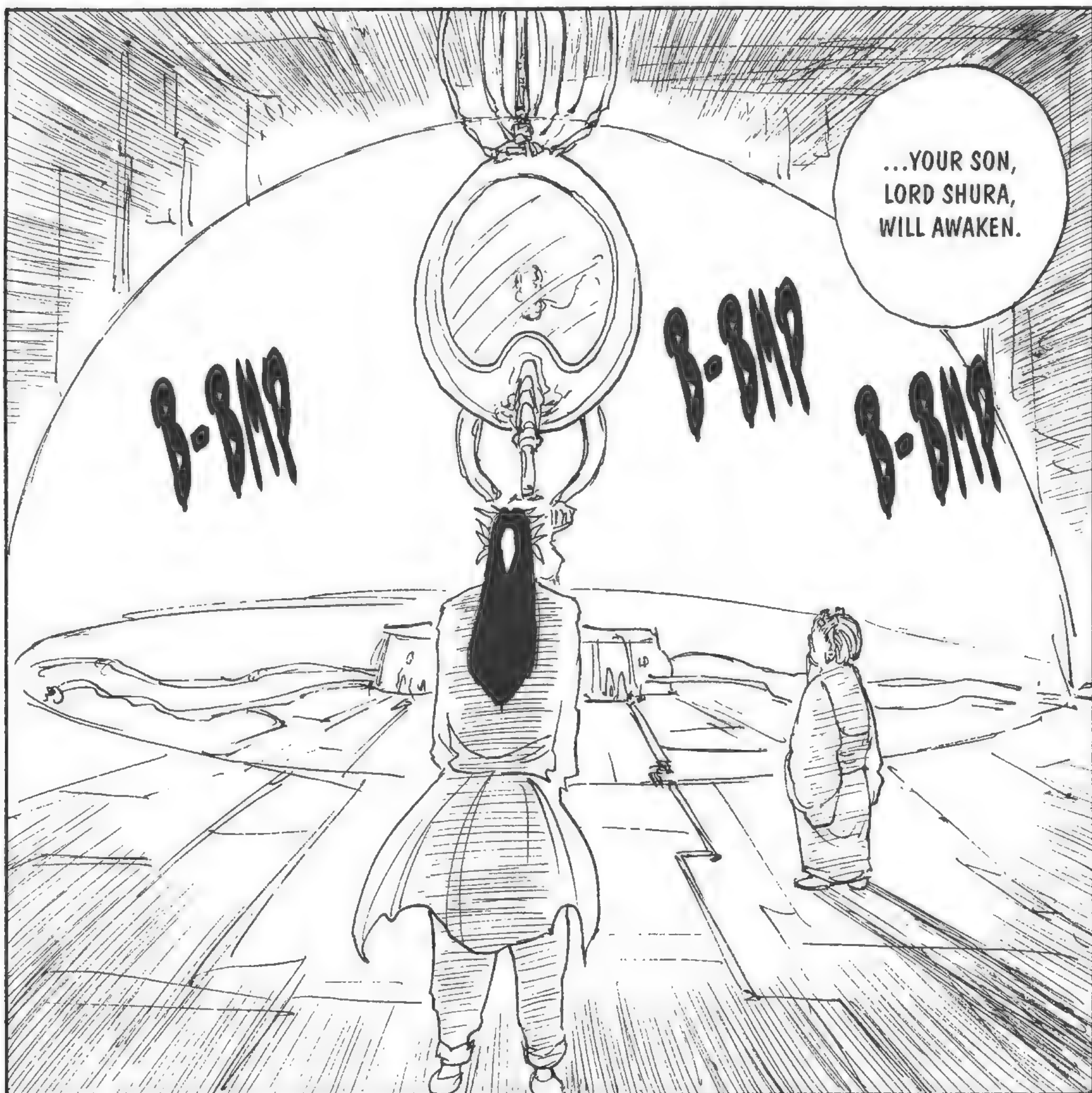
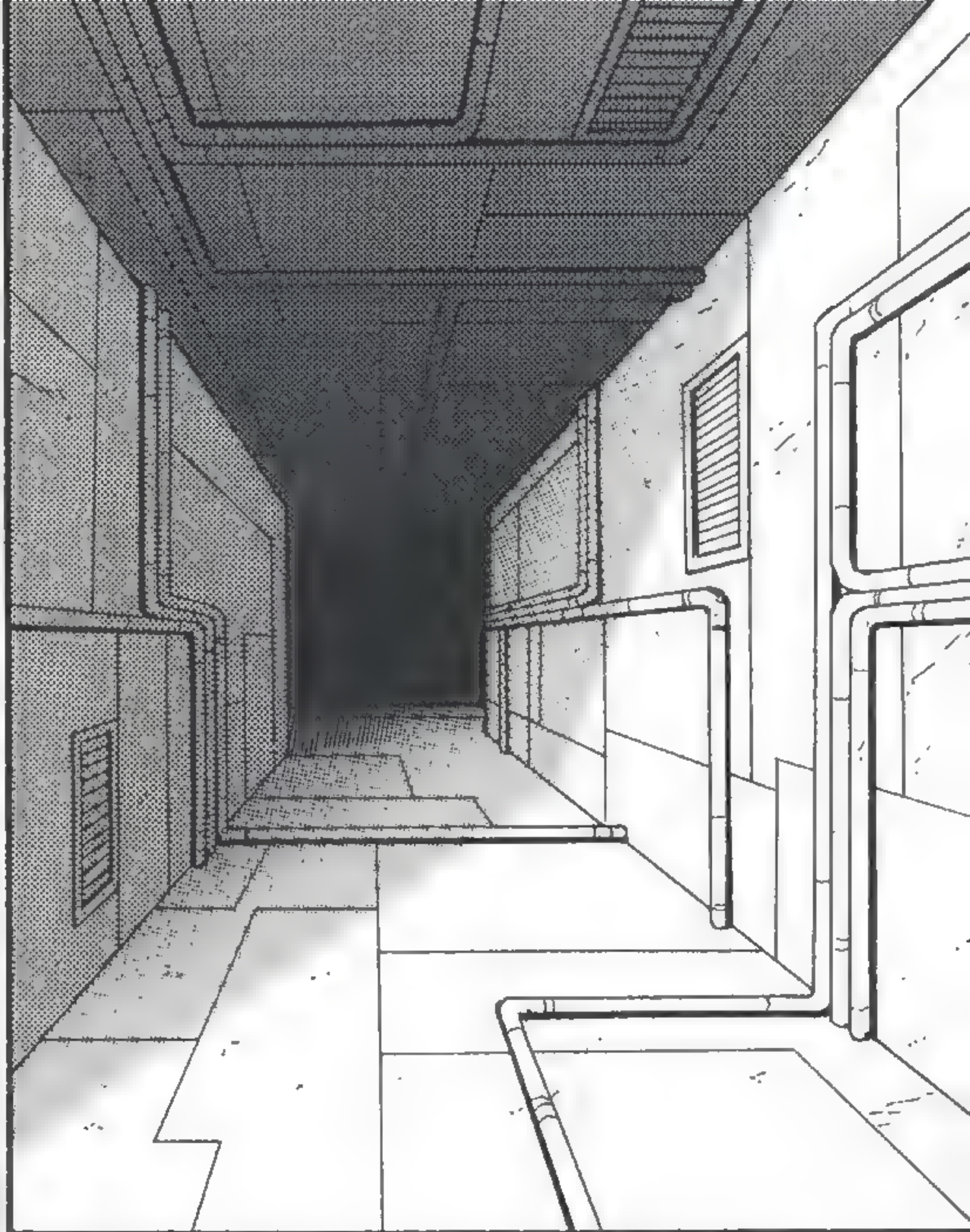
THEY WAITED AS THE  
REMAINING 93 DAYS  
COUNTED DOWN.

IN THE FIRST WEEK THERE  
WERE 107 ENTRANTS IN  
THE TOURNAMENT:  
YOMI AND 15 OF HIS  
FOLLOWERS, MUKURO AND  
78 FORMER FOLLOWERS  
(INCLUDING HIEI),  
KURAMA, CHU,  
LINK, SUZUKI,  
SHISHIWAKAMARU,  
TOYA, JIN... AND YUSUKE,  
TO-OH, HOKUSHIN,  
SEIZAN, AND NANKAI.





IN JUST A FEW  
MORE DAYS...



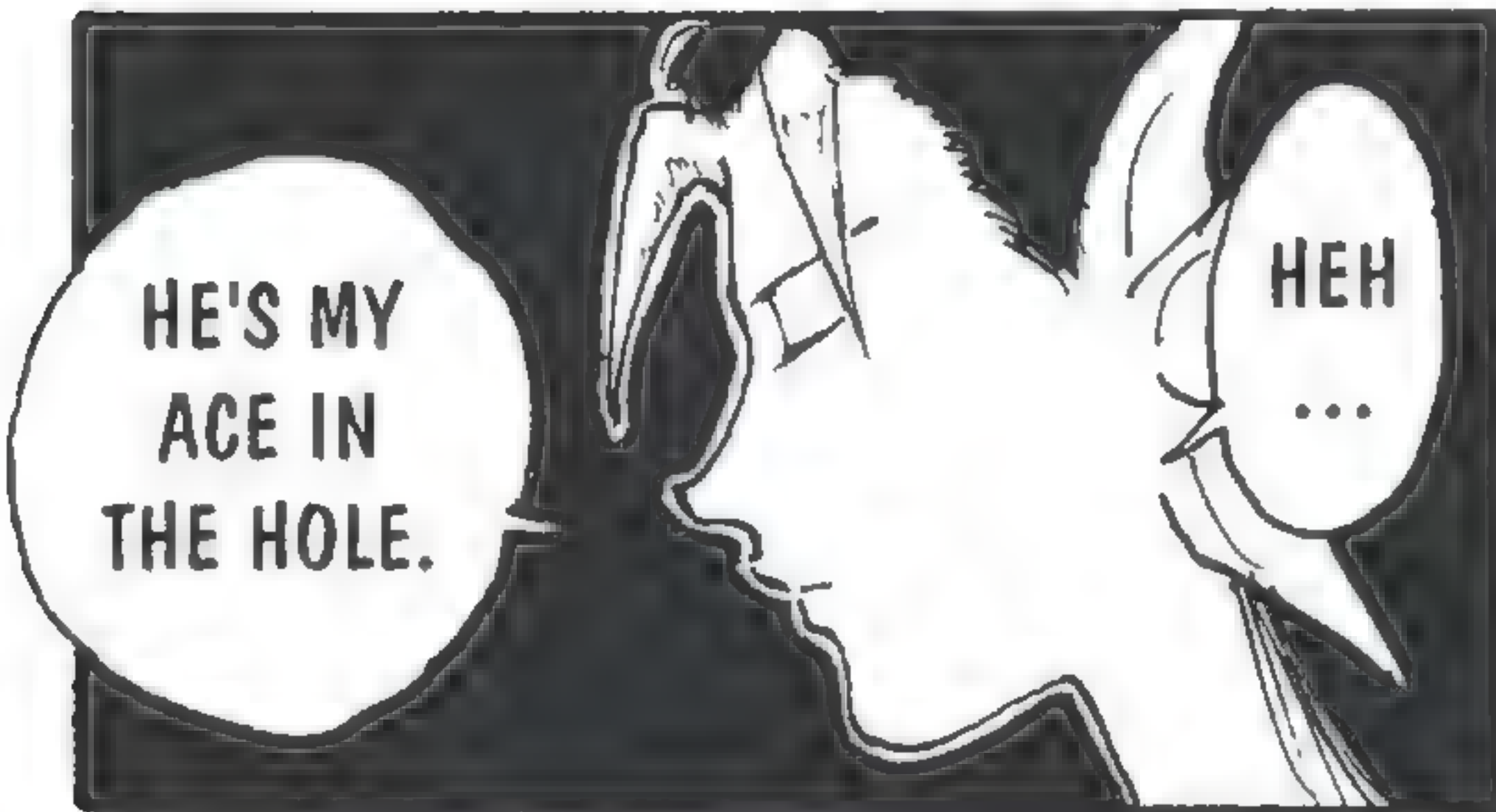
...YOUR SON,  
LORD SHURA,  
WILL AWAKEN.





WHAT IS HIS  
CURRENT  
READING?

AND START HIS  
TRAINING.  
WE HAVE NO TIME  
TO WASTE.



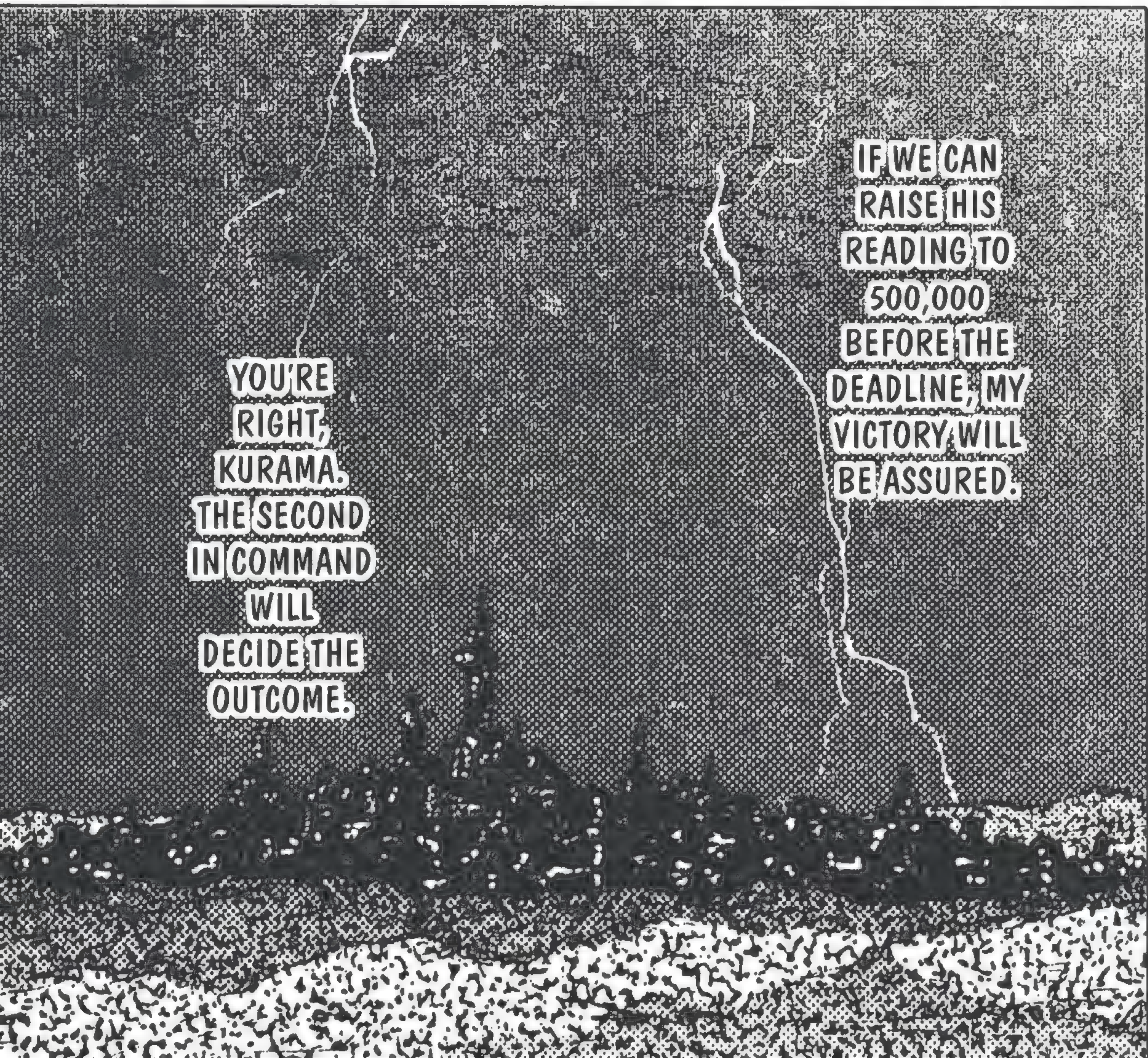
HE'S MY  
ACE IN  
THE HOLE.

HEH  
...



UNPRE-  
CEDENTED...  
AND  
SCARY.

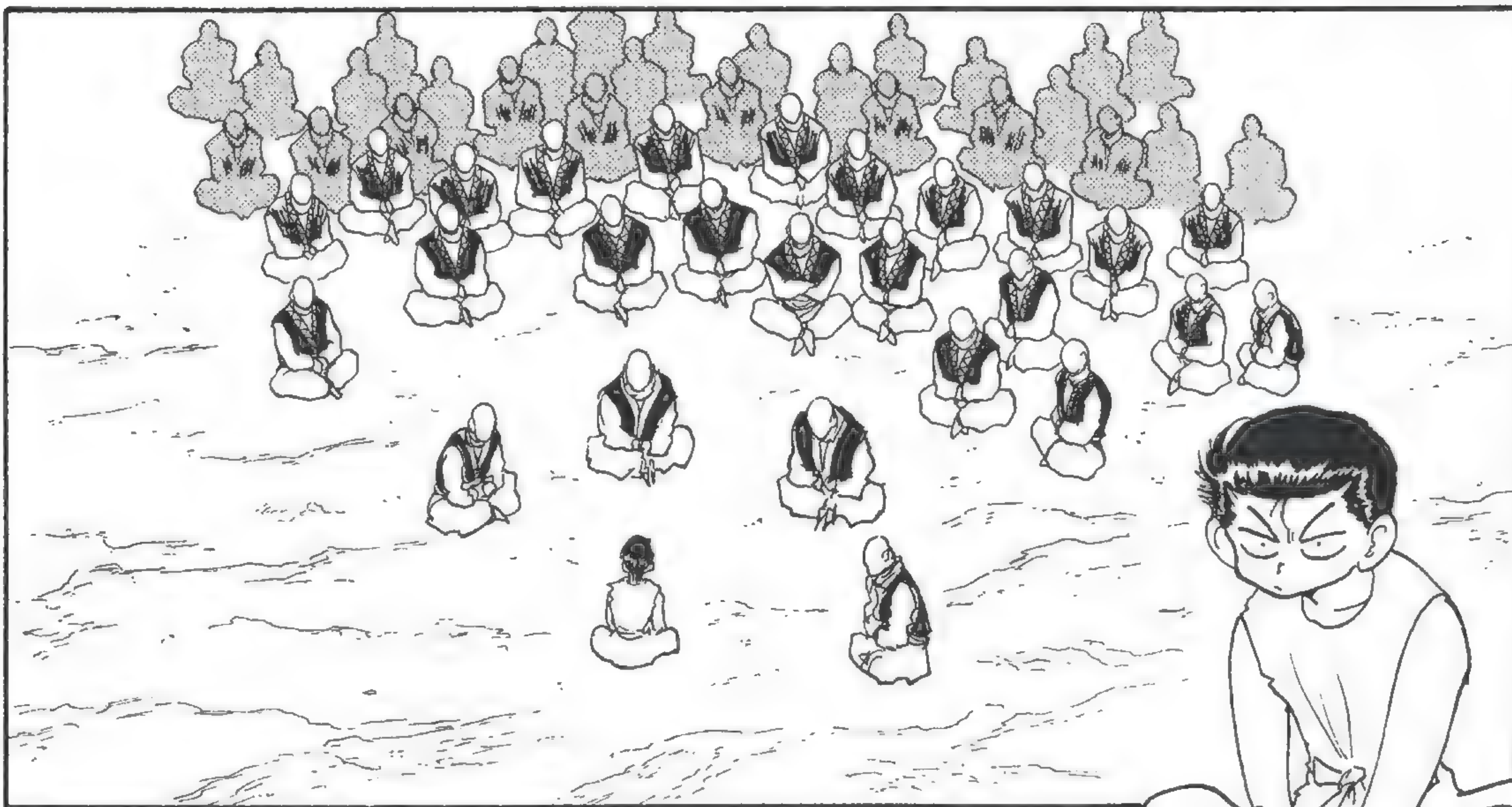
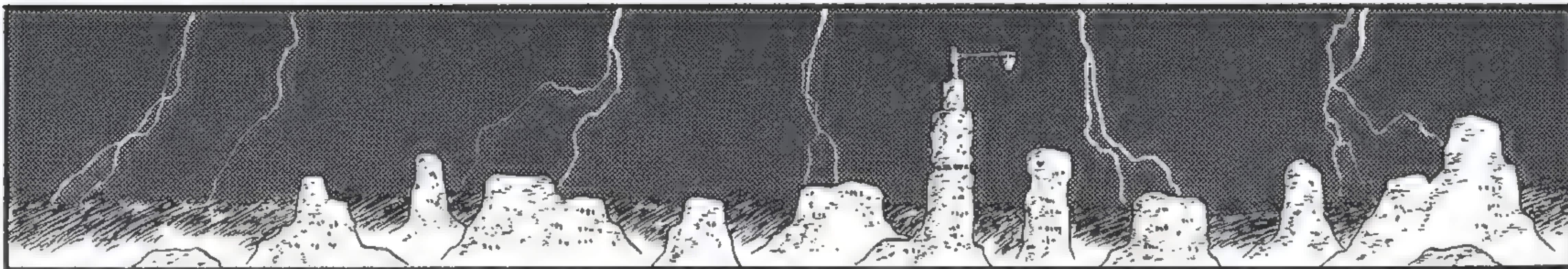
OVER  
80,000.



YOU'RE  
RIGHT,  
KURAMA.  
THE SECOND  
IN COMMAND  
WILL  
DECIDE THE  
OUTCOME.

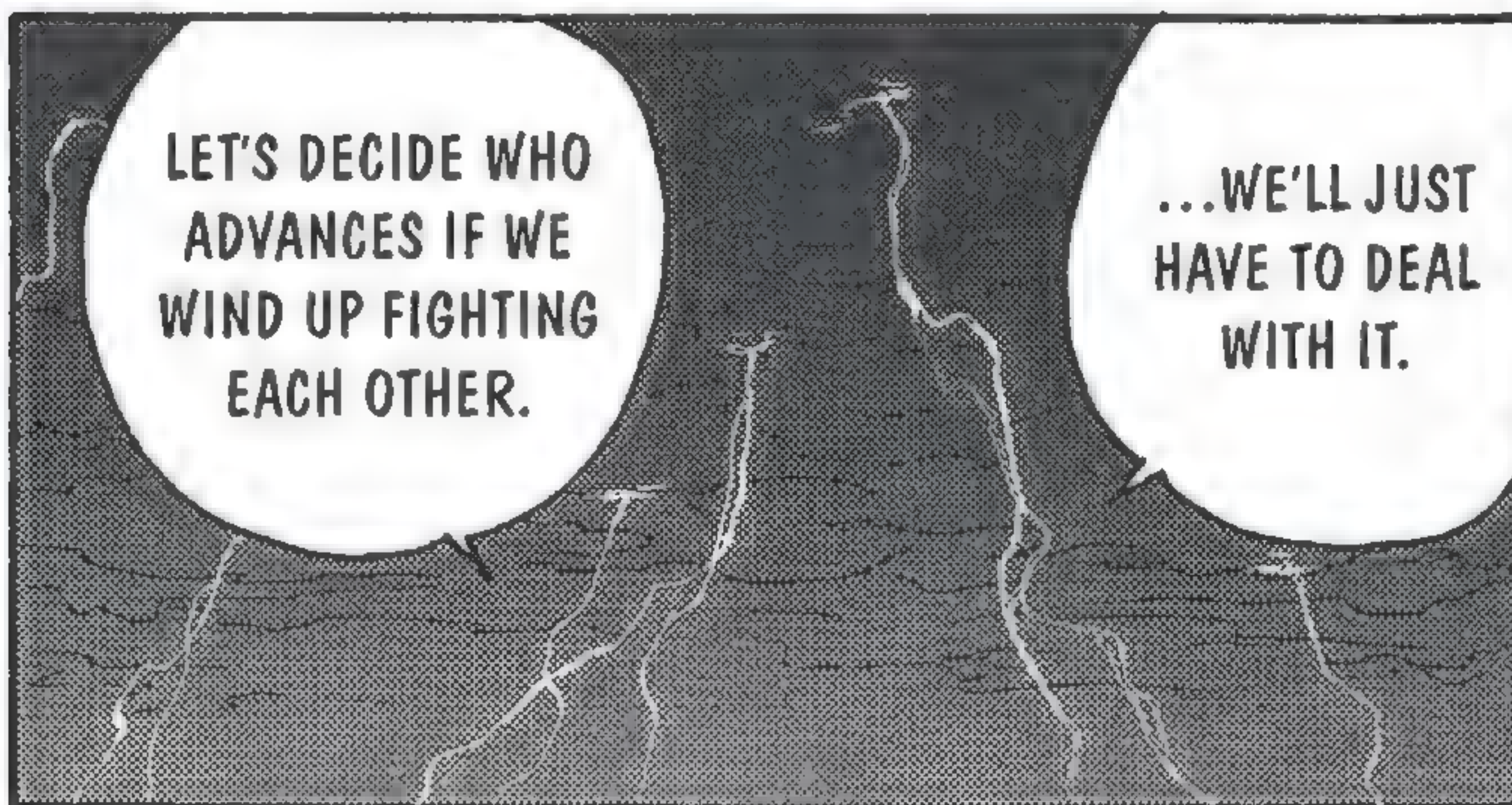
IF WE CAN  
RAISE HIS  
READING TO  
500,000  
BEFORE THE  
DEADLINE, MY  
VICTORY WILL  
BE ASSURED.





BUT A  
TOURNAMENT?  
OH WELL...

WELL, YOU  
DID YOUR  
BEST.



LET'S DECIDE WHO  
ADVANCES IF WE  
WIND UP FIGHTING  
EACH OTHER.

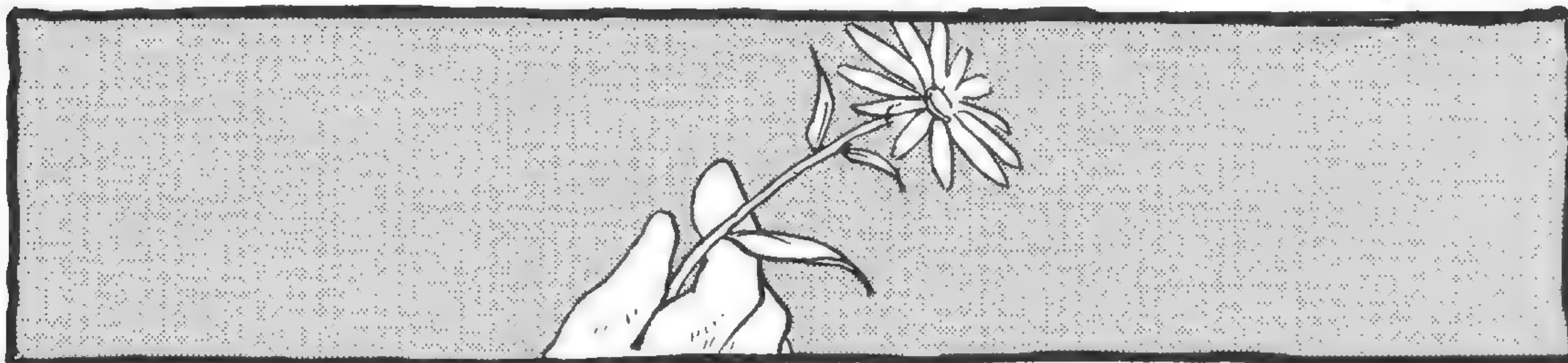
...WE'LL JUST  
HAVE TO DEAL  
WITH IT.



IT WASN'T MY  
IDEA FOR  
RAIZEN TO DIE  
AND DROP THIS  
IN MY LAP.

C'MON, DON'T  
GIMME THAT  
LOOK.







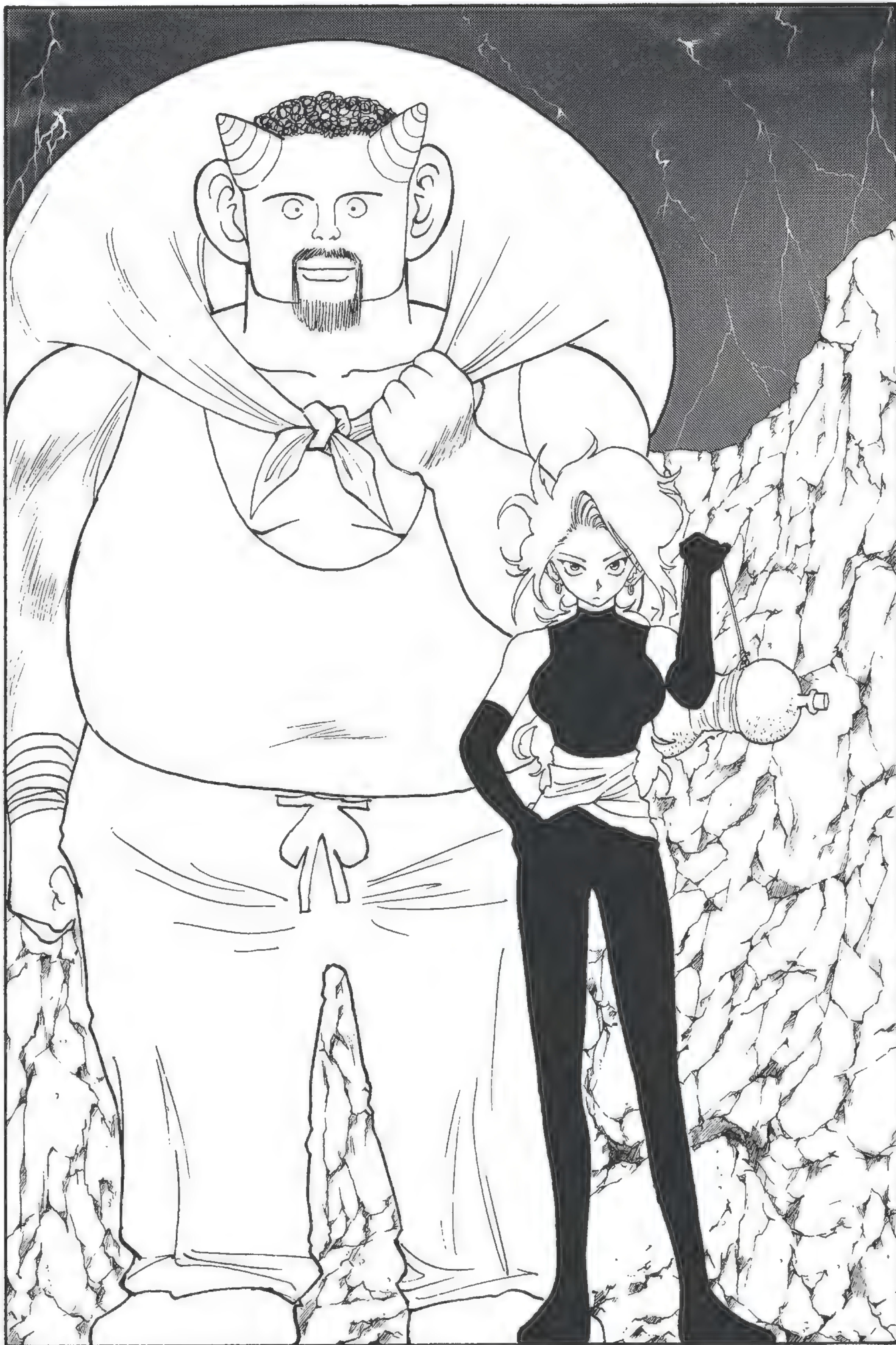


IT'S WHAT WE'VE  
EACH FREELY  
CHOSEN TO DO,  
SO YOU HAVE NO  
GROUNDS FOR  
COMPLAINT.

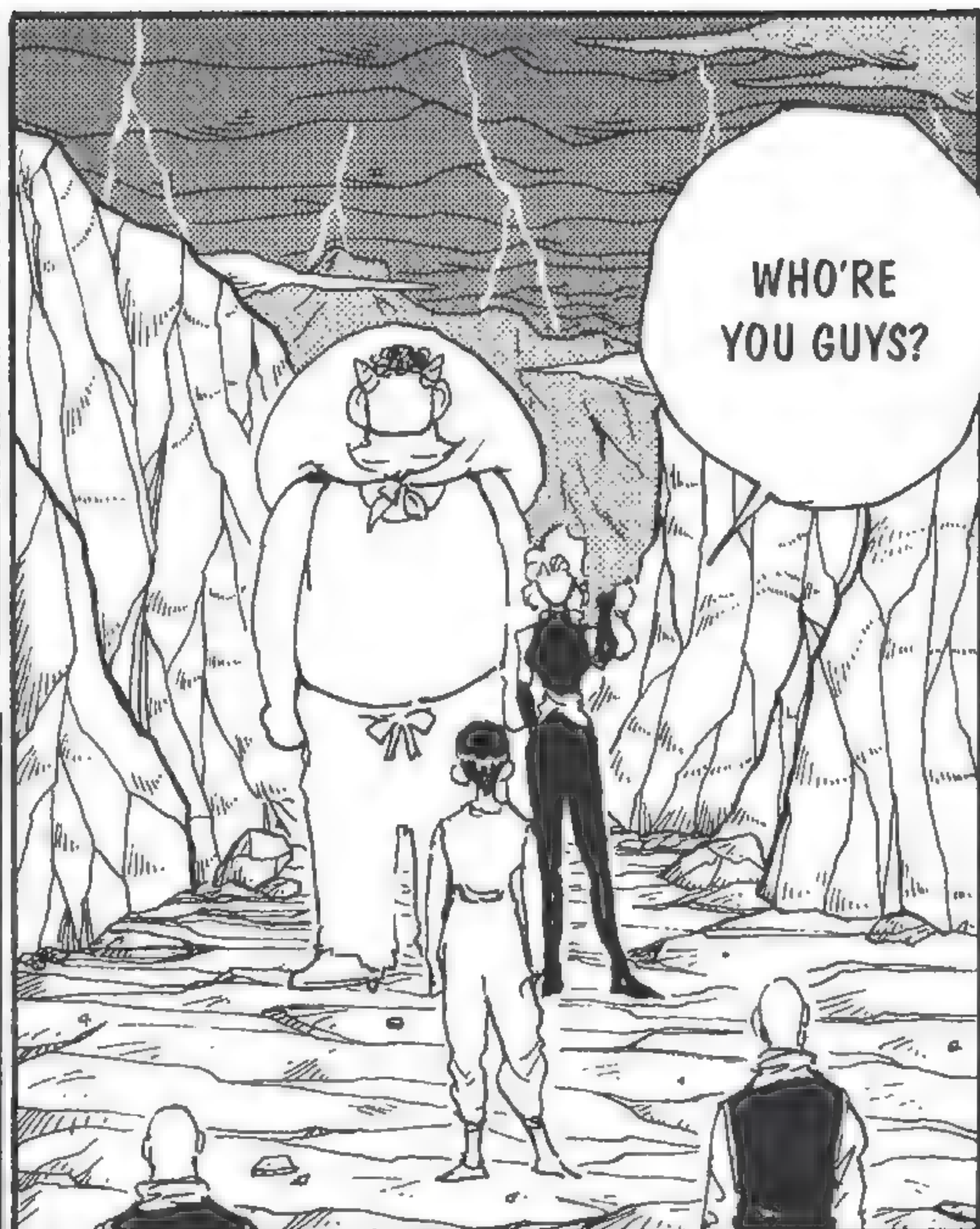
IN ANY EVENT,  
WE'LL DO ALL  
WE CAN TO LET  
YOU WIN.



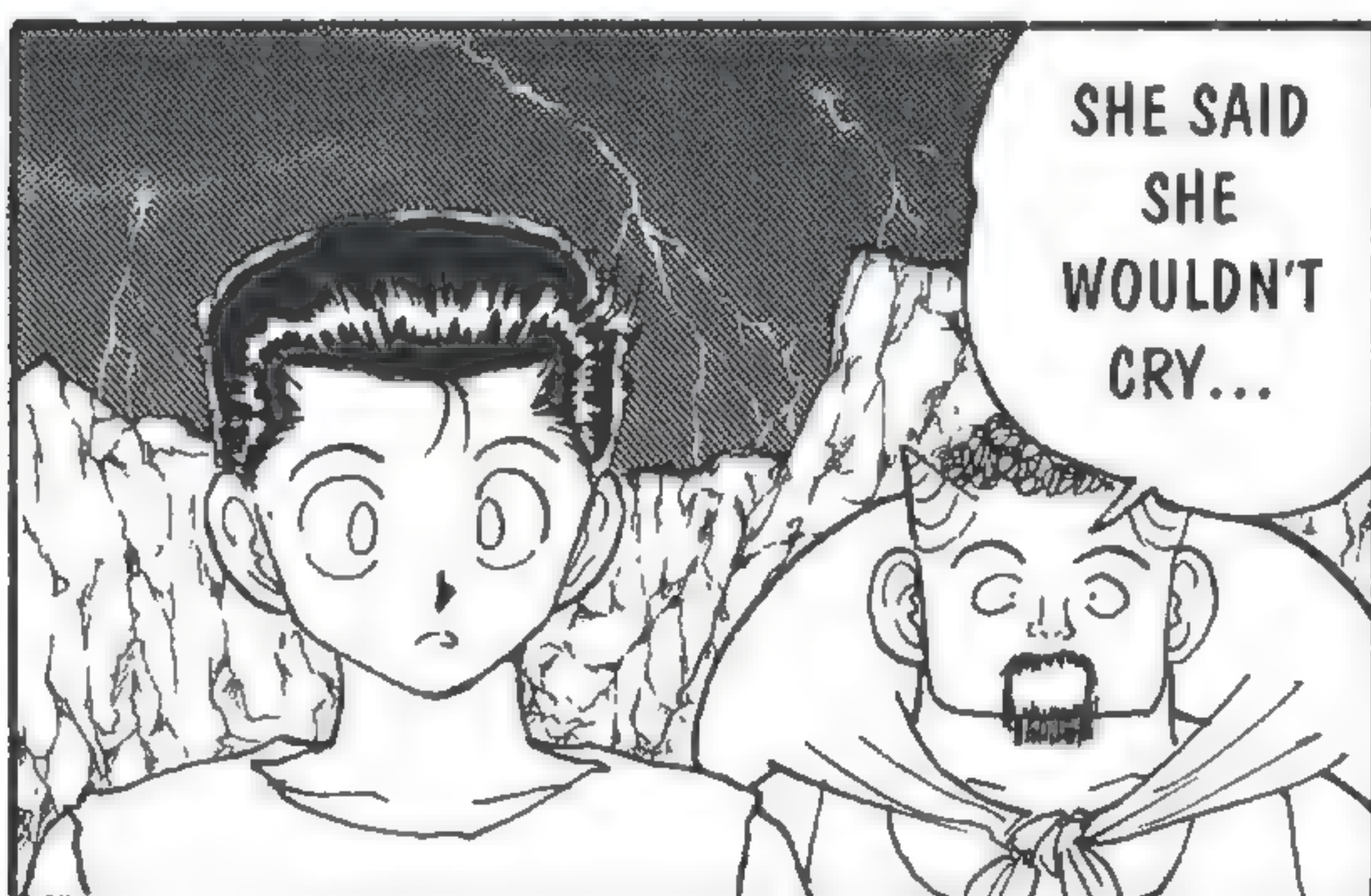
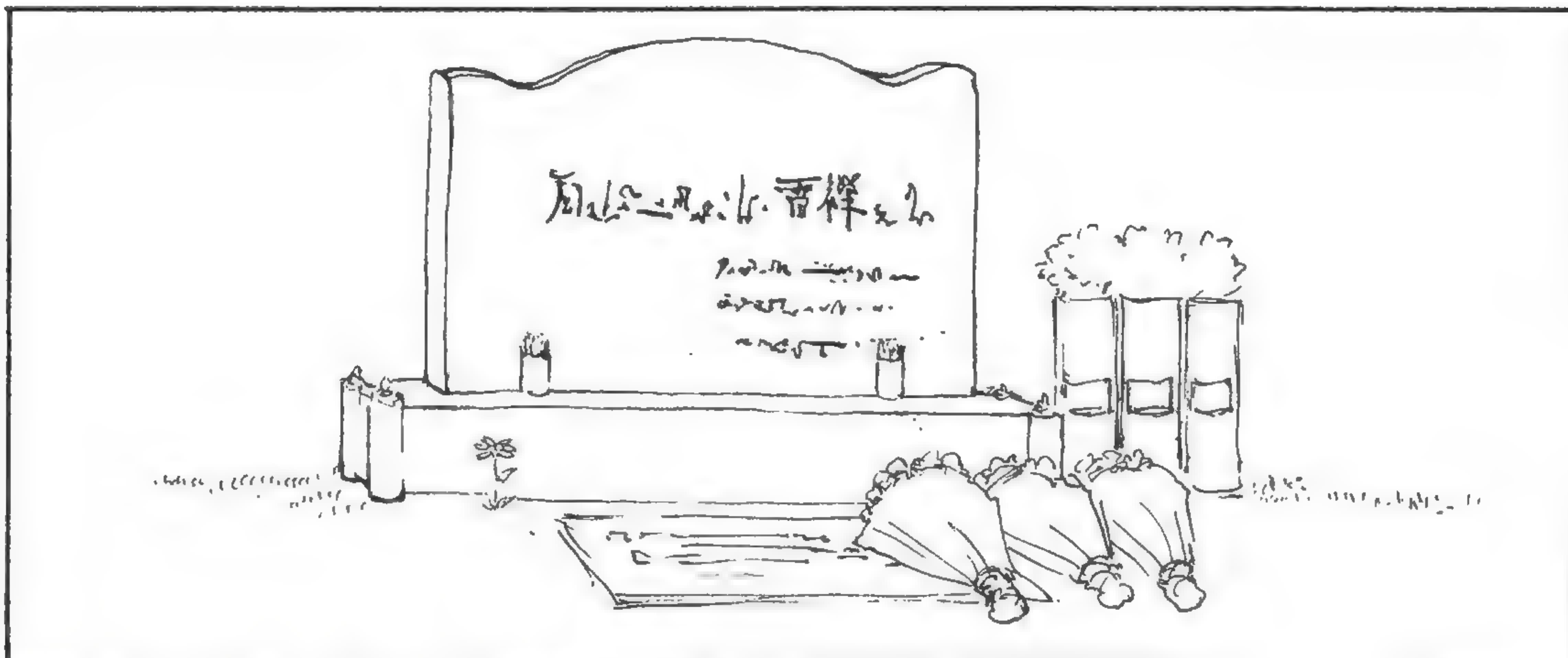




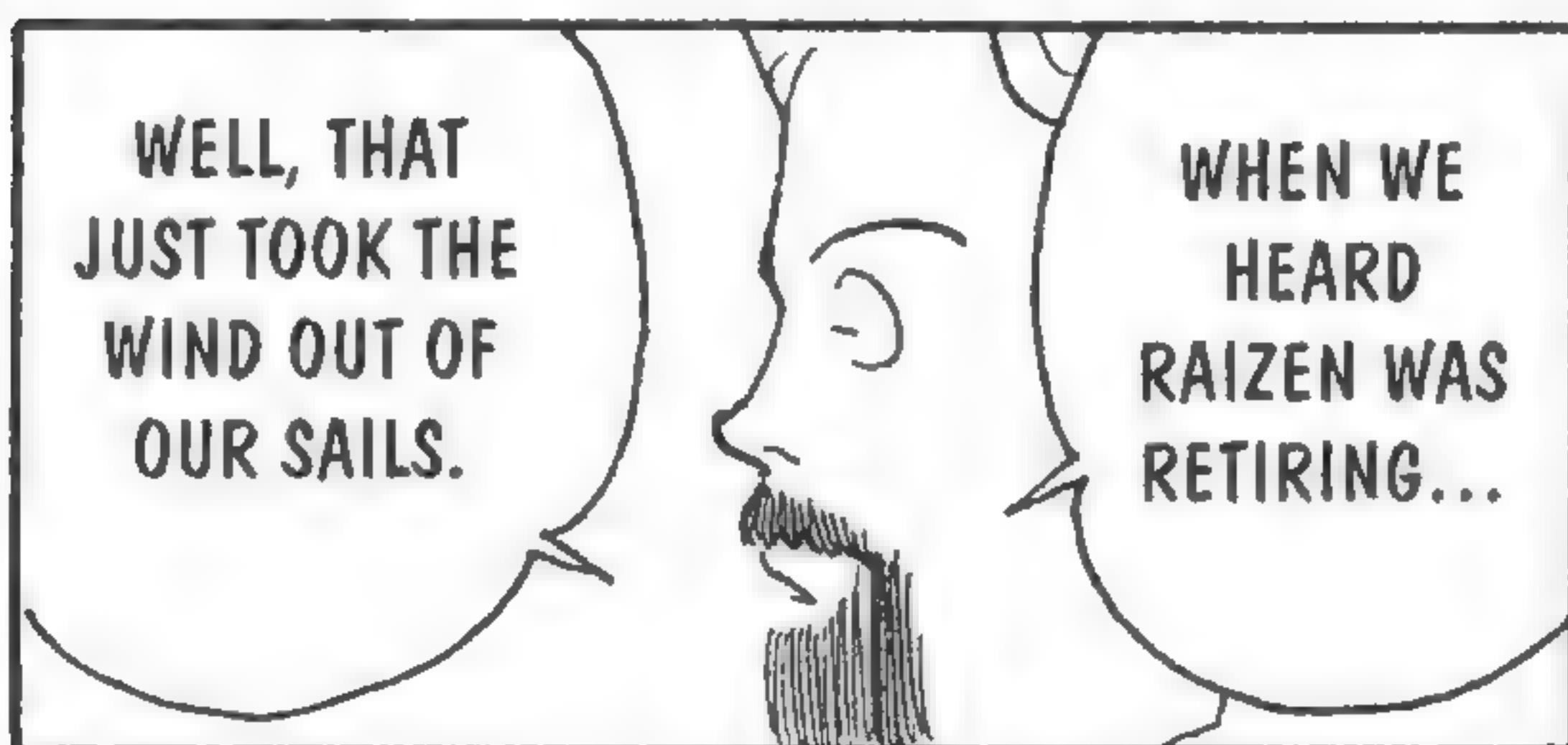






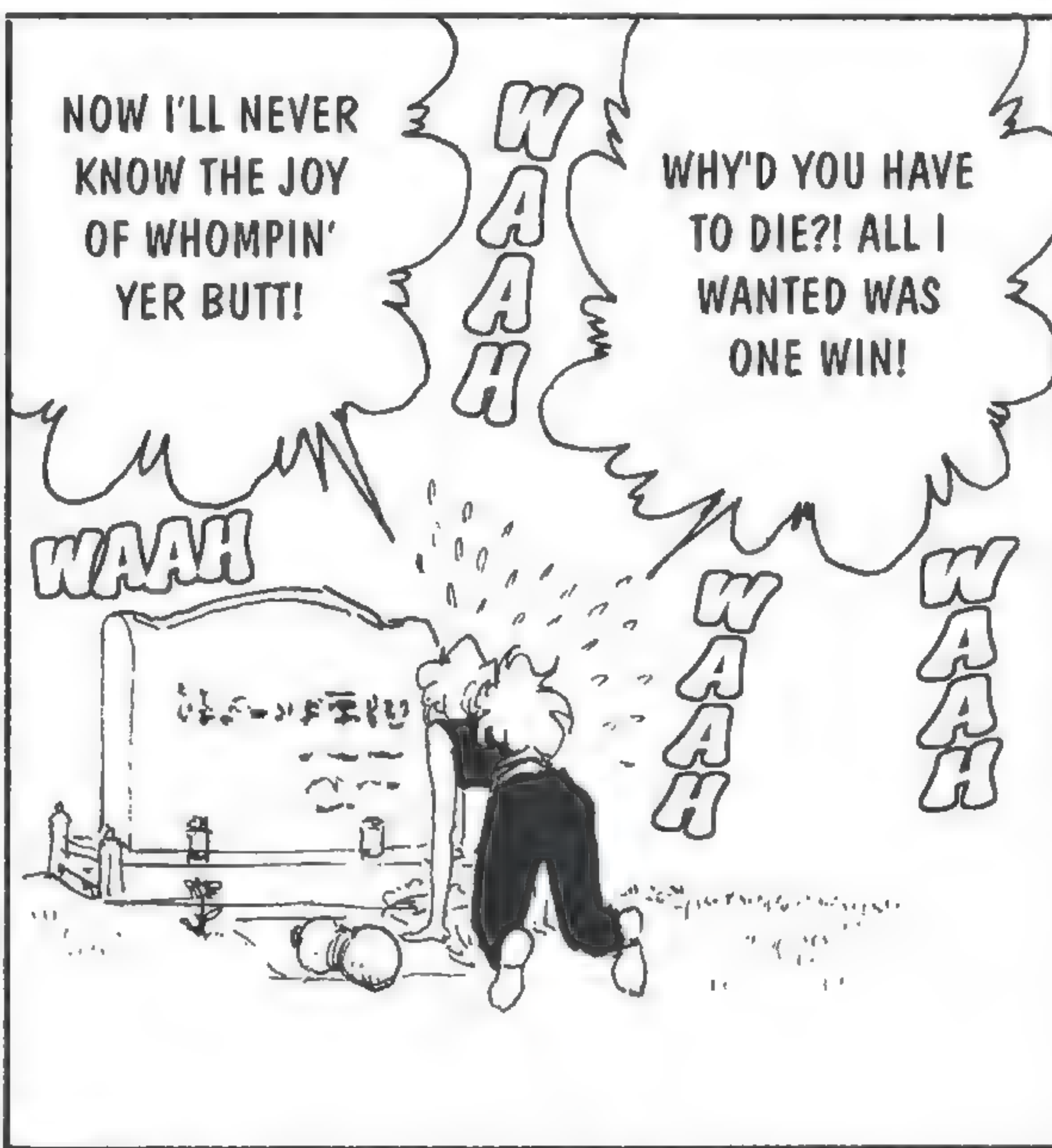


SHE SAID  
SHE  
WOULDN'T  
CRY...



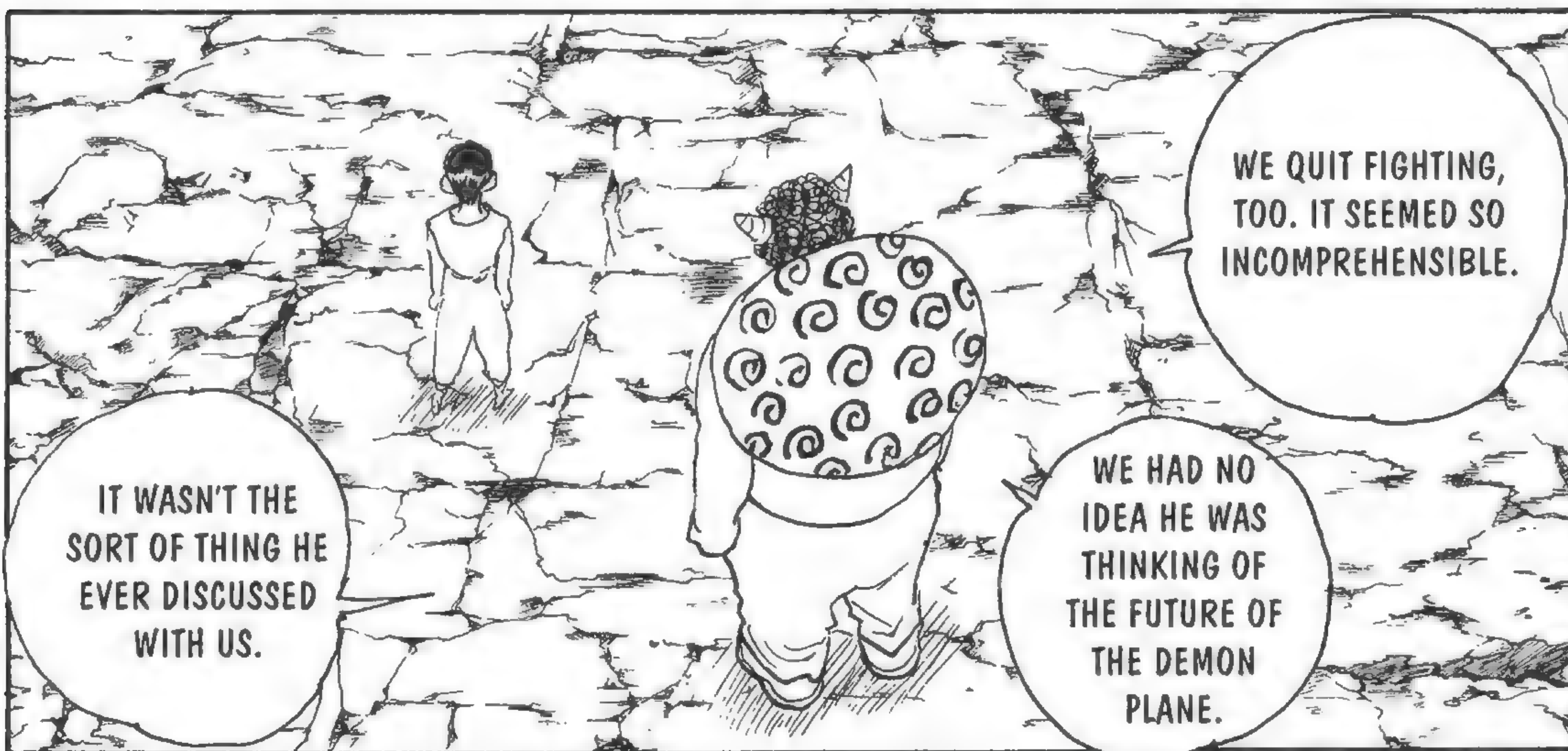
WELL, THAT  
JUST TOOK THE  
WIND OUT OF  
OUR SAILS.

WHEN WE  
HEARD  
RAIZEN WAS  
RETIRING...



NOW I'LL NEVER  
KNOW THE JOY  
OF WHOMPIN'  
YER BUTT!

WHY'D YOU HAVE  
TO DIE?! ALL I  
WANTED WAS  
ONE WIN!

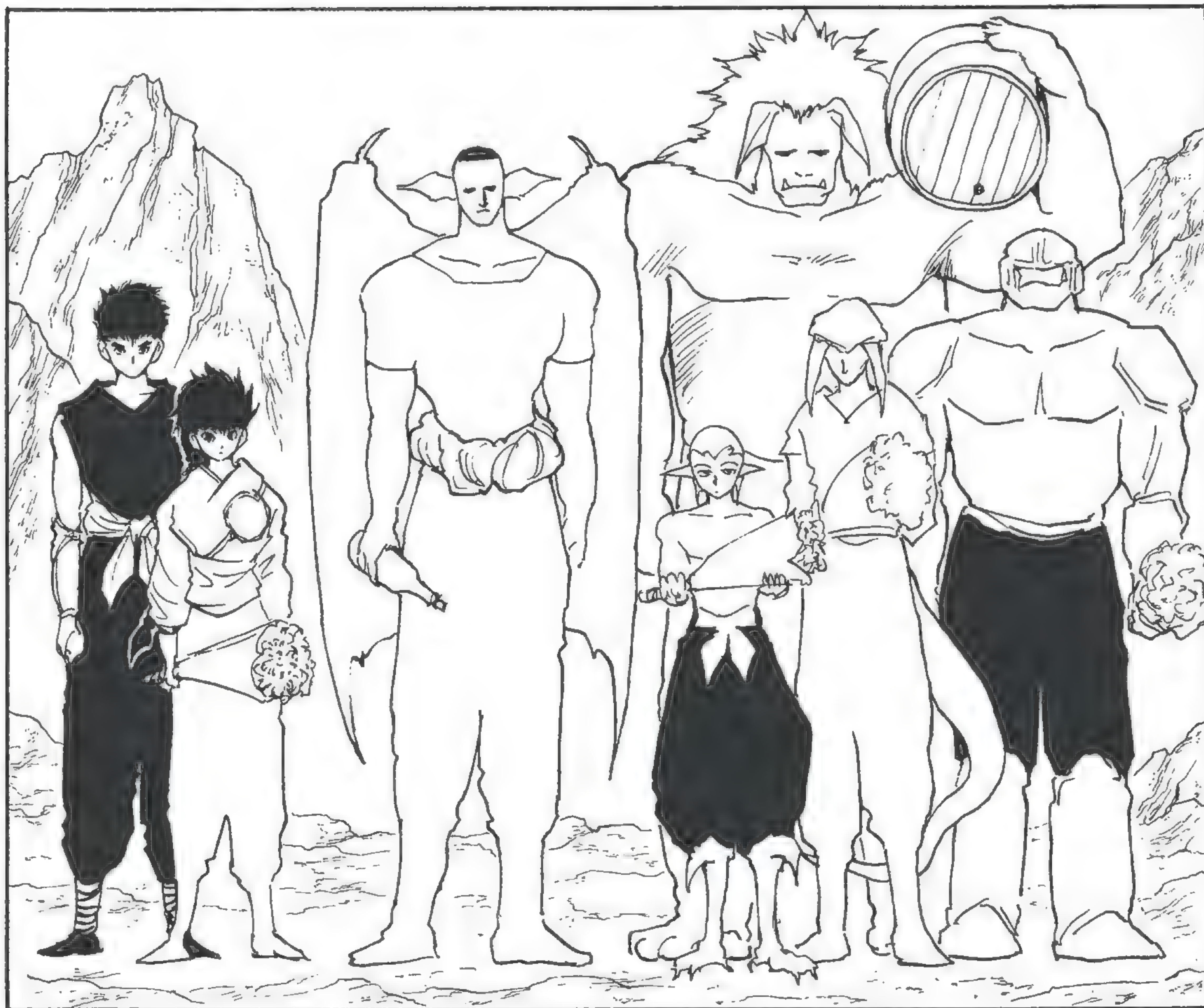


IT WASN'T THE  
SORT OF THING HE  
EVER DISCUSSED  
WITH US.

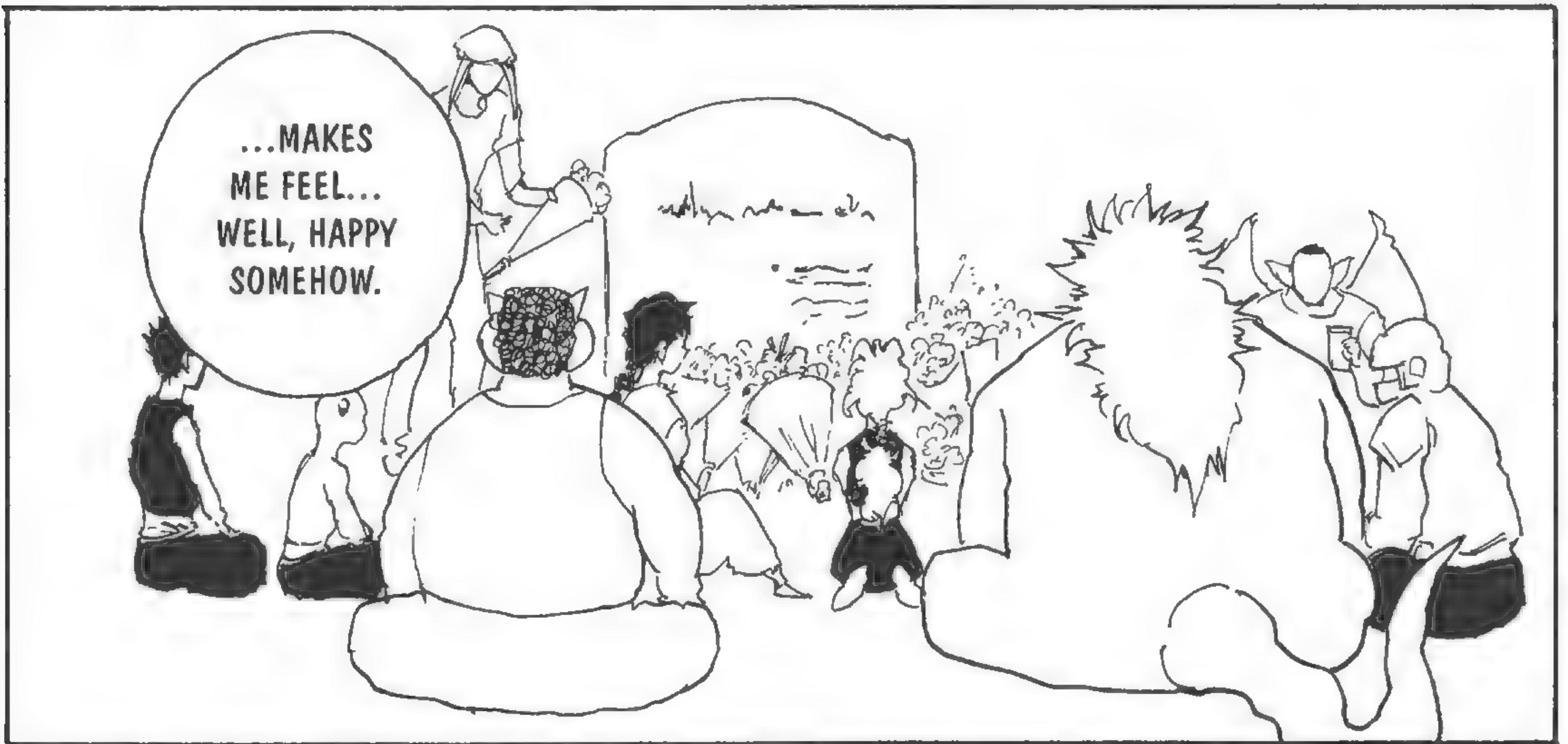
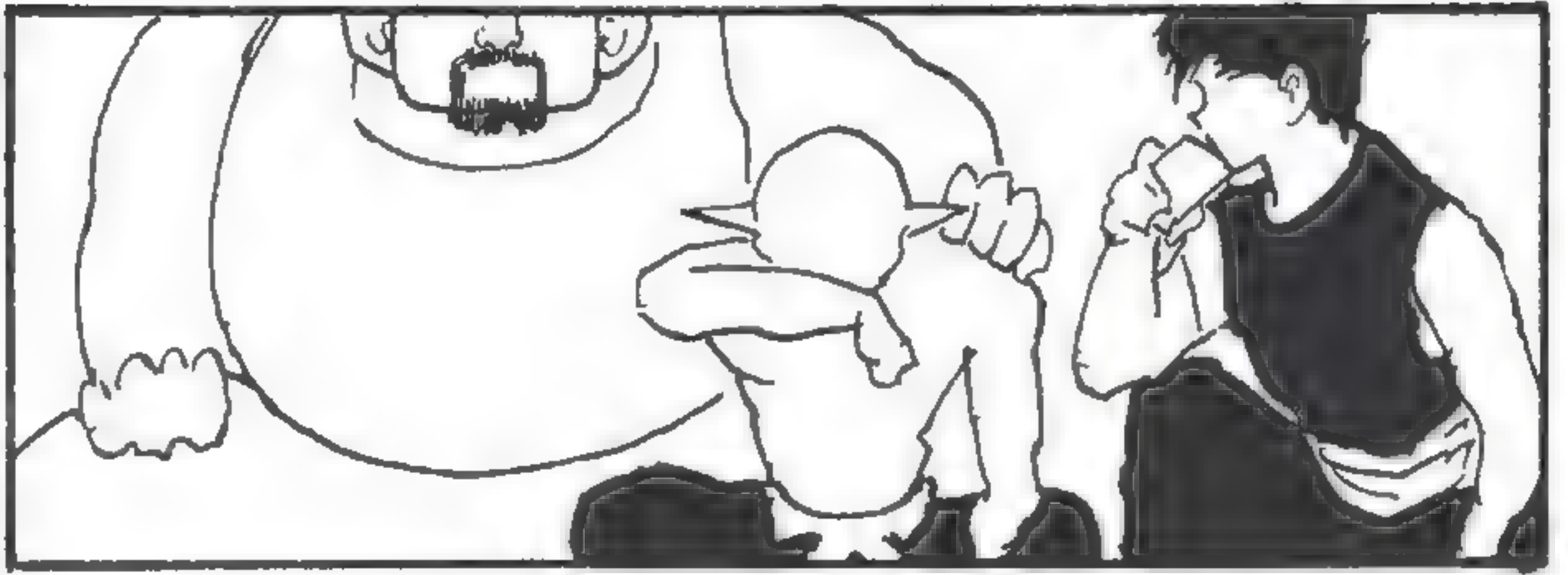
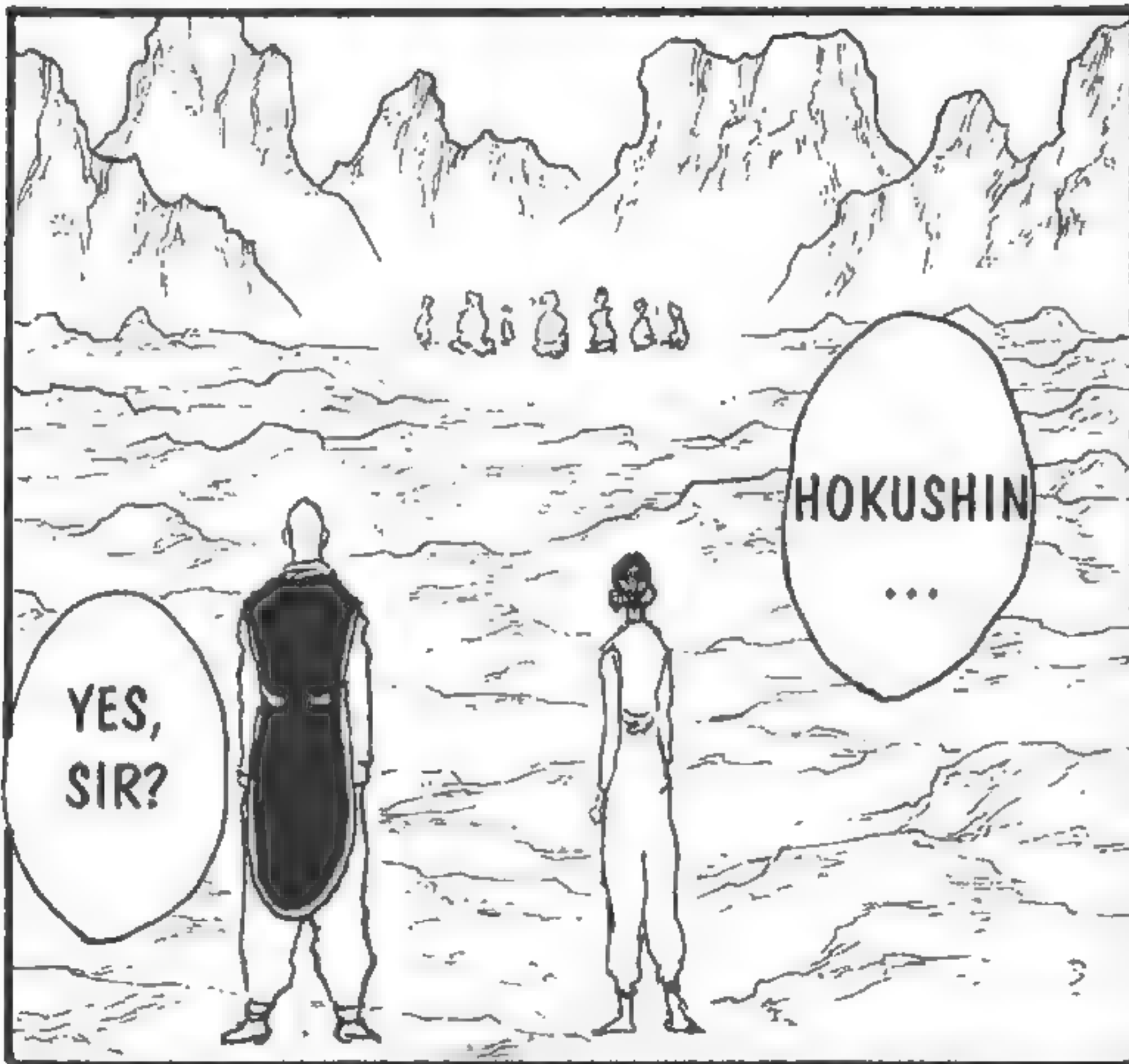
WE QUIT FIGHTING,  
TOO. IT SEEMED SO  
INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

WE HAD NO  
IDEA HE WAS  
THINKING OF  
THE FUTURE OF  
THE DEMON  
PLANE.

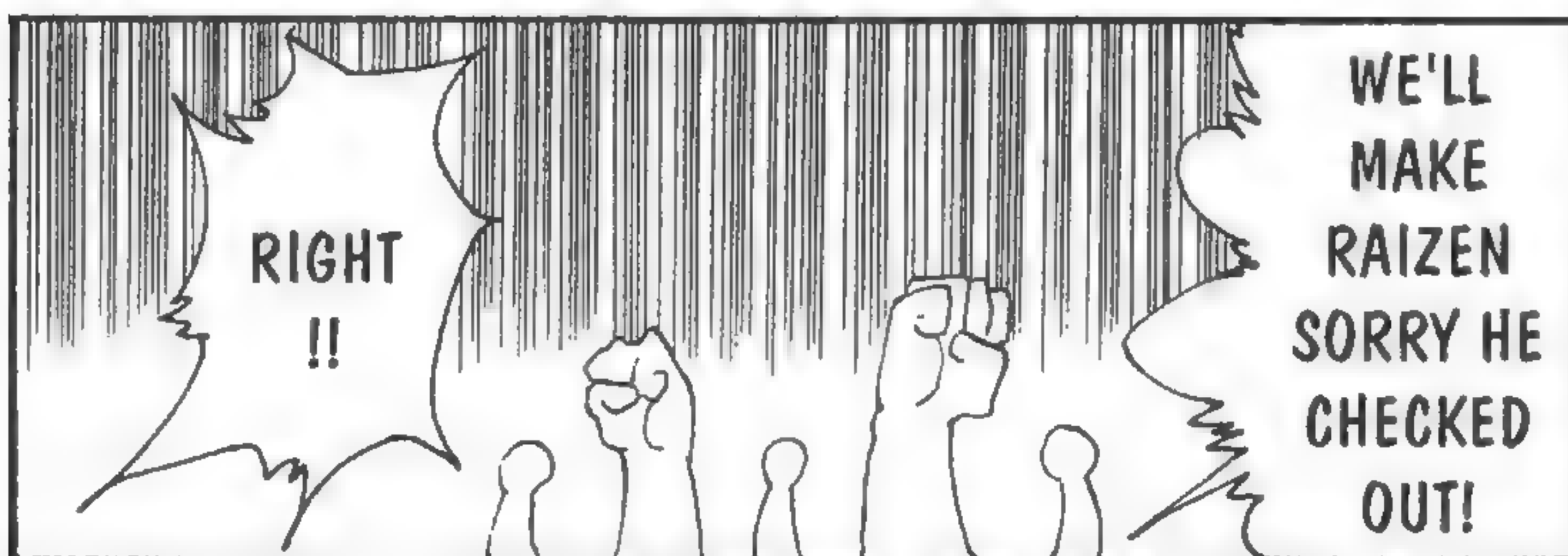
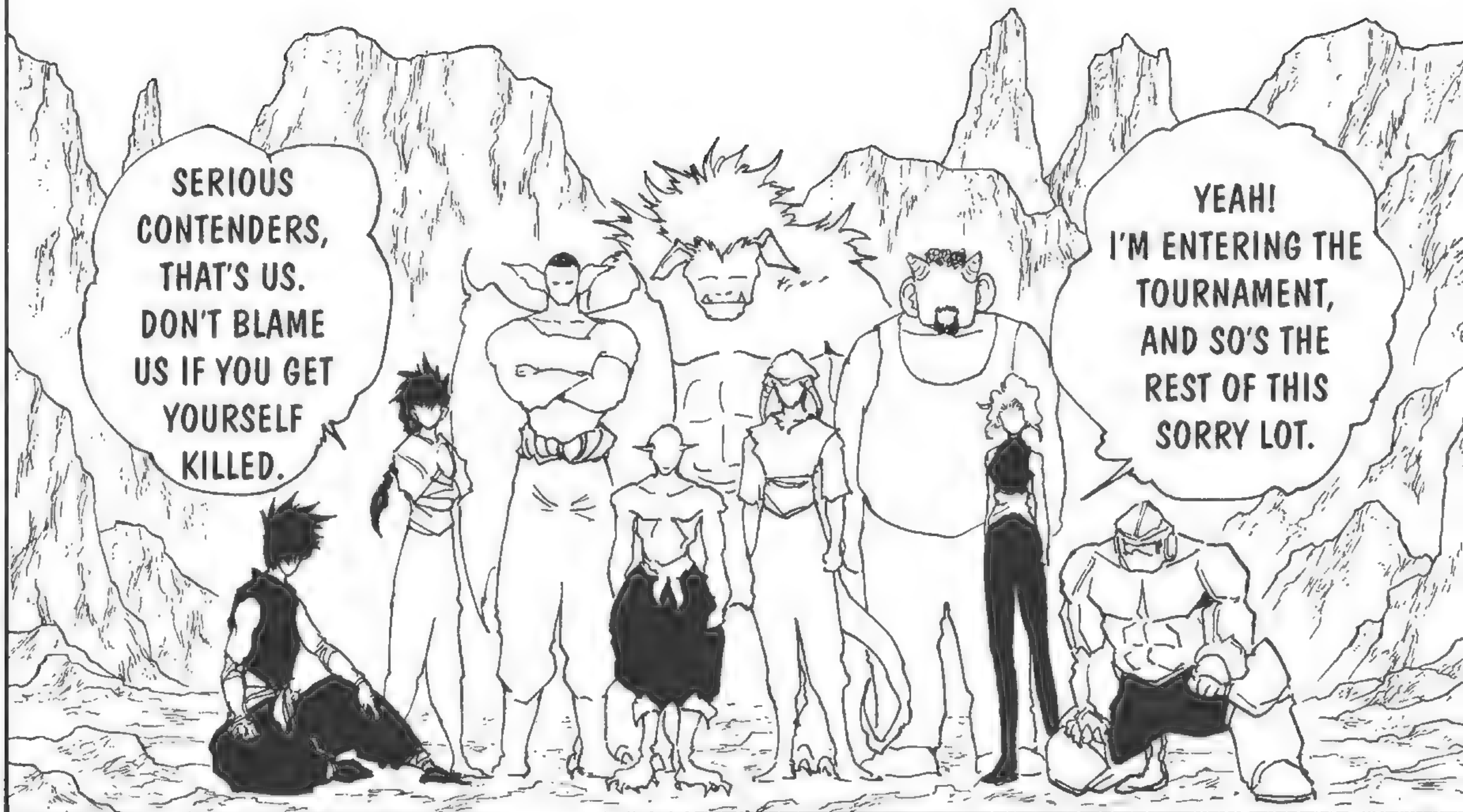








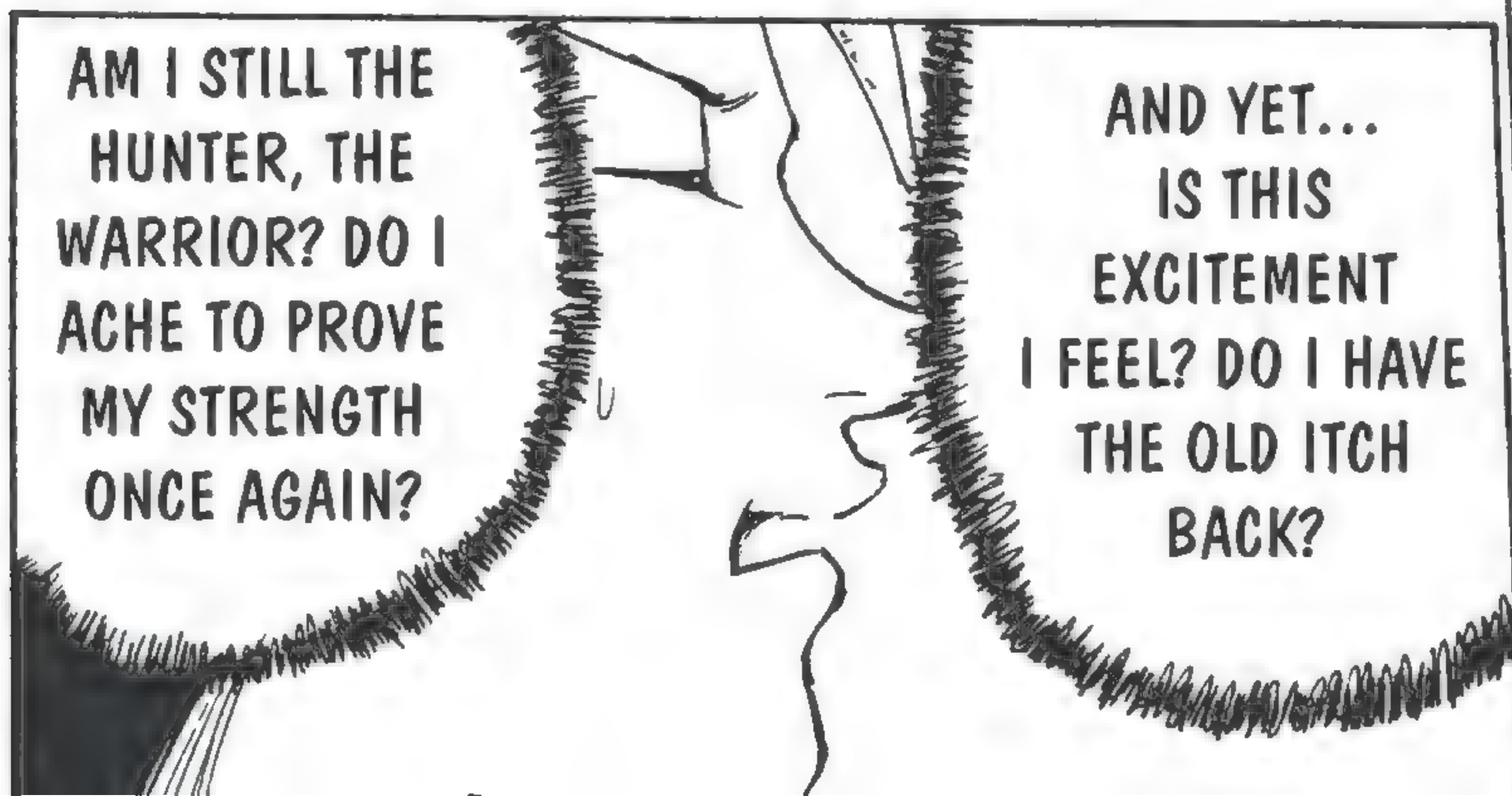
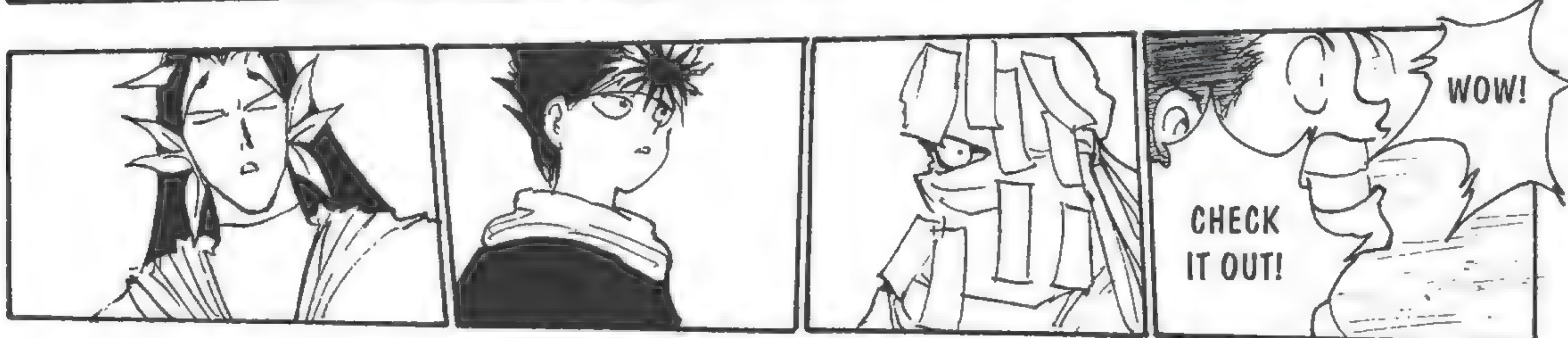




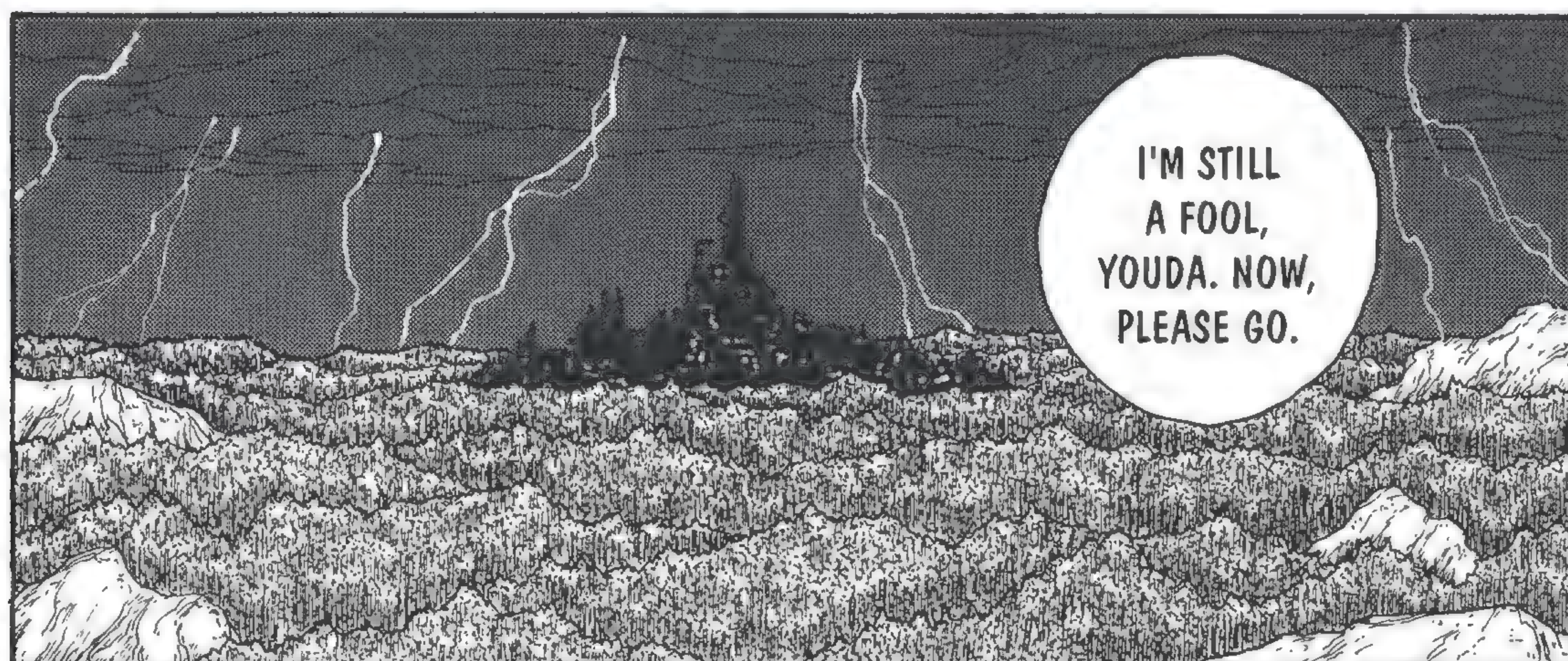










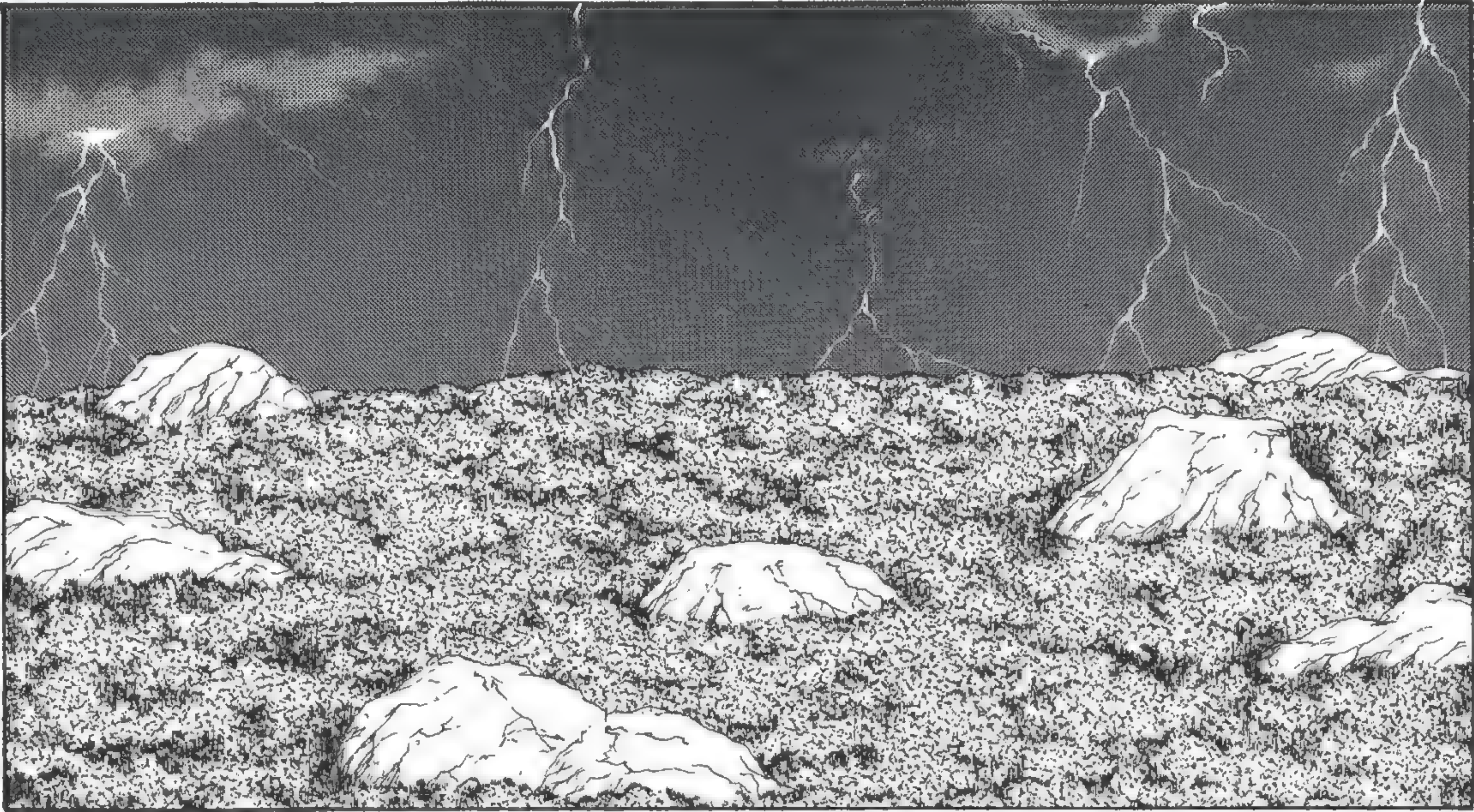




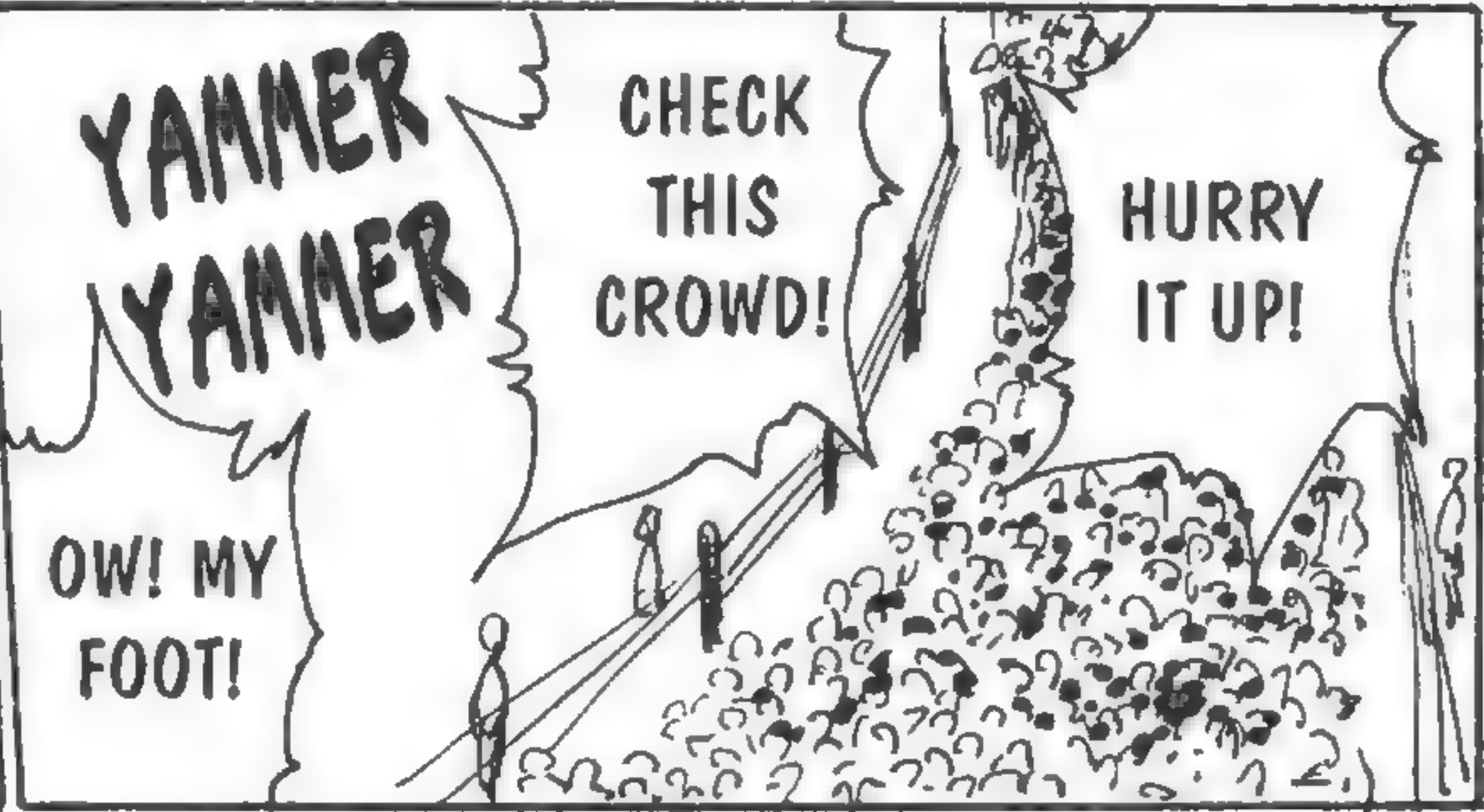




# THE DEMON PLANE UNIFICATION TOURNAMENT



No  
pushing,  
please!

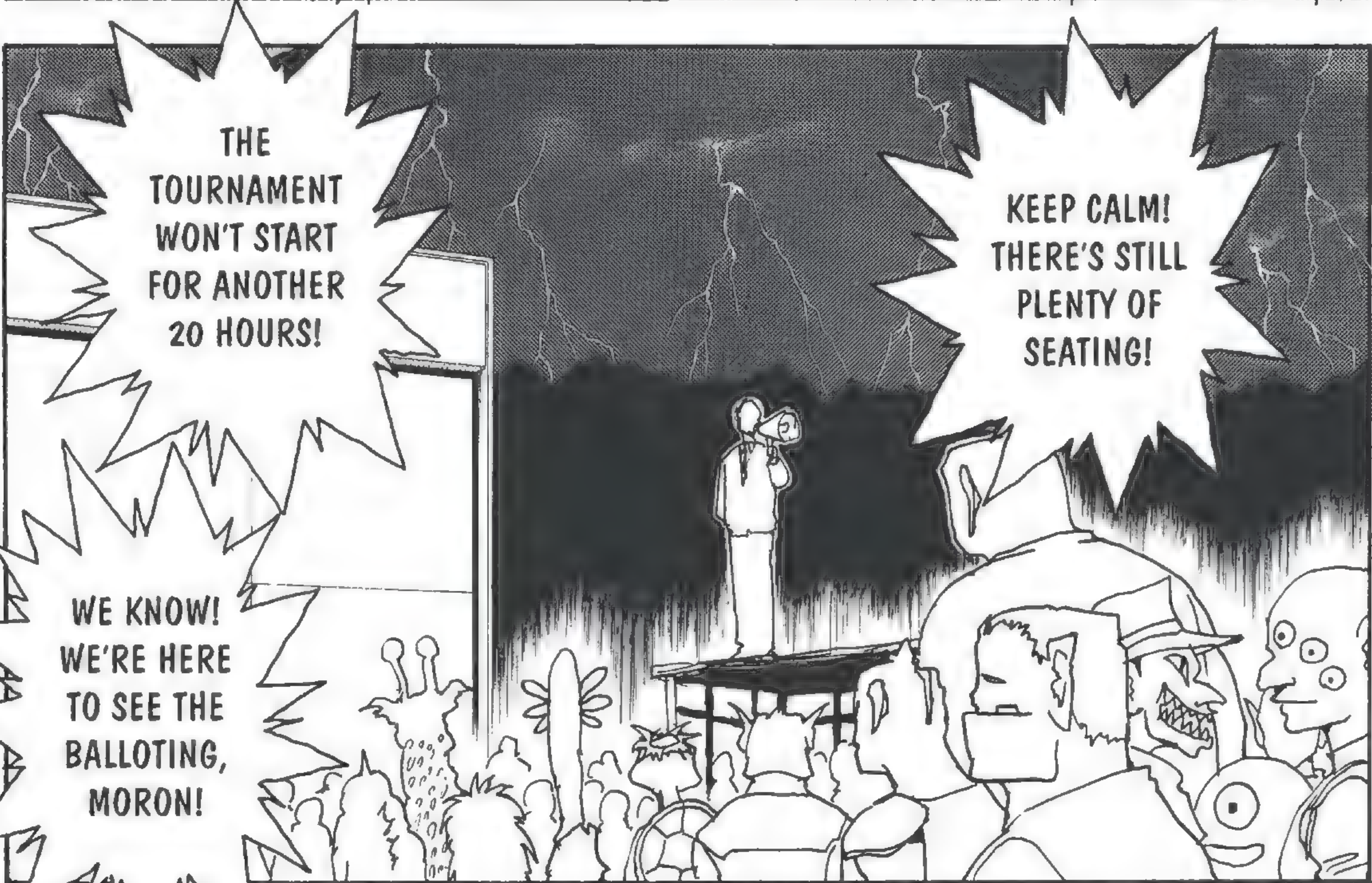


**YAMMER  
YAMMER**

OW! MY  
FOOT!

CHECK  
THIS  
CROWD!

HURRY  
IT UP!




THE  
TOURNAMENT  
WON'T START  
FOR ANOTHER  
20 HOURS!

WE KNOW!  
WE'RE HERE  
TO SEE THE  
BALLOTING,  
MORON!

KEEP CALM!  
THERE'S STILL  
PLENTY OF  
SEATING!





THE FINAL TALLY OF TOURNAMENT ENTRANTS WAS 6,272, FAR ABOVE EXPECTATIONS. THIS WAS LARGELY DUE TO THE SUCCESSIVE WITHDRAWAL AND DISAPPEARANCE OF ALL OF YOMI'S SUBORDINATES, LENDING CREDIBILITY TO THE IDEA THAT HE'D DISSOLVED HIS NATION. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT LED TO A SHARP INCREASE IN THE PERCEIVED CHANCES OF WINNING. AS THE NUMBER OF JEWELS YUSUKE PRESENTED TO YOMI WEREN'T ENOUGH FOR THIS ENORMOUS POOL OF ENTRANTS, THE LOTTERY WAS CONDUCTED BY DRAWING CARDS.

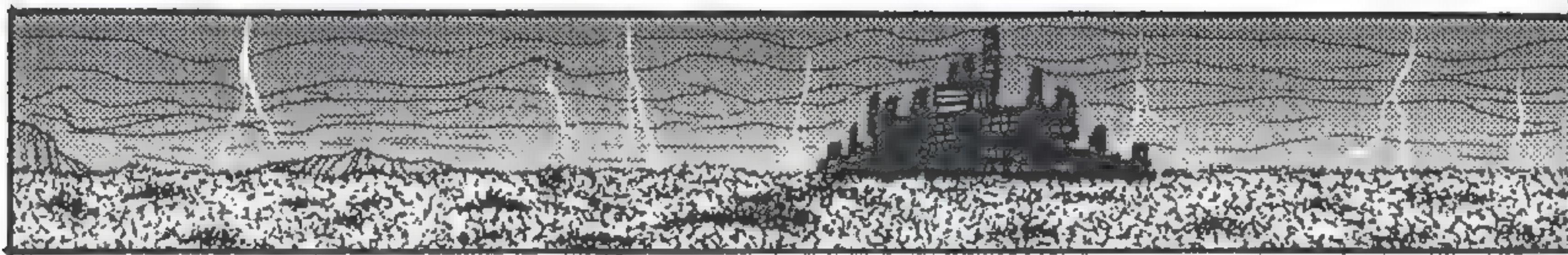
# THE DEMON PLANE UNIFICATION TOURNAMENT



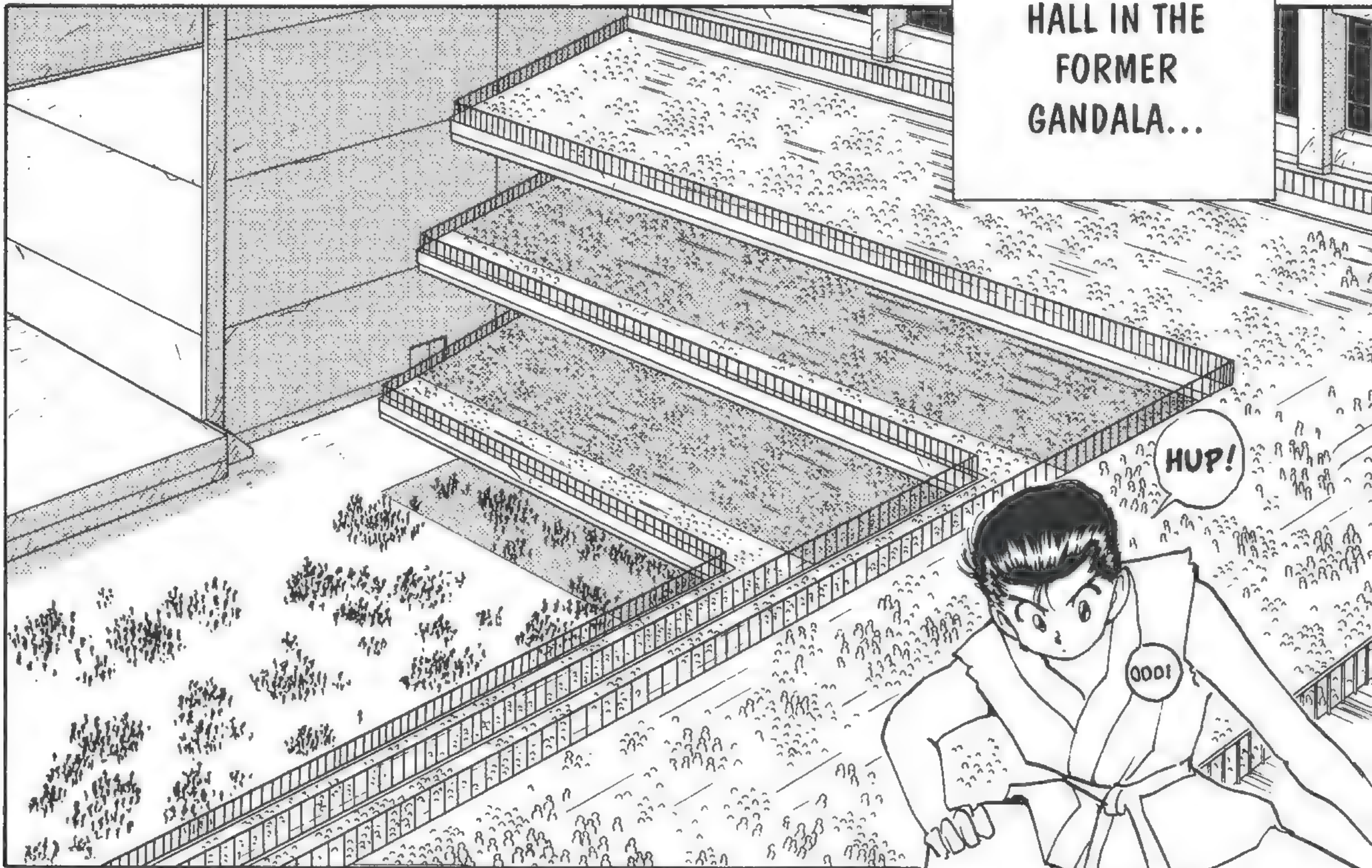


THINKING THAT THE TOURNAMENT  
WOULD PRETTY MUCH AMOUNT  
TO A DUEL BETWEEN YOMI AND  
MUKURO, THE AUDIENCES  
WERE QUIVERING WITH  
ANTICIPATION OVER THE GRAND  
SPECTACLE THAT SO MANY  
CONTESTANTS NOW PROMISED  
TO DELIVER.





MEANWHILE,  
IN THE SELECTION  
HALL IN THE  
FORMER  
GANDALA...



I STILL DON'T SEE HOW  
A SHAVETAIL LIKE THAT  
MANAGED TO TALK YOMI  
AND MUKURO INTO THIS.



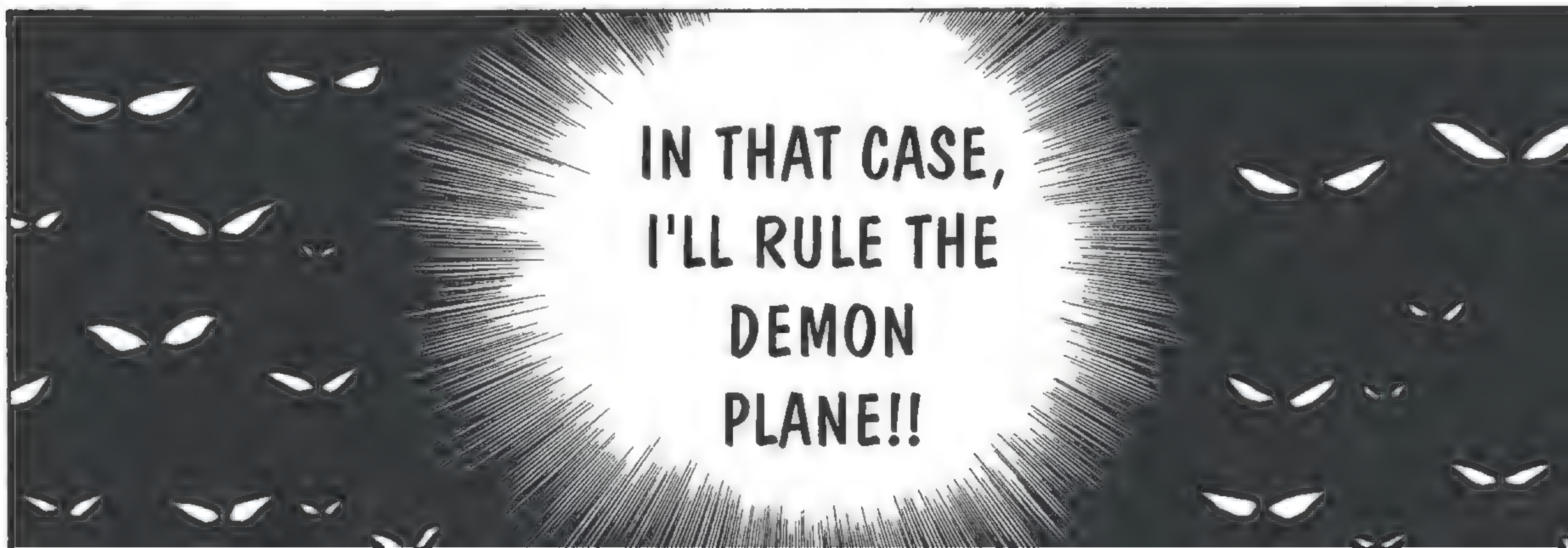
SO THAT'S URAMESHI...  
THE ONE WHO GOT THIS  
WHOLE THING ROLLING.

TRUE. YOMI AND  
MUKURO MIGHT  
TAKE EACH OTHER  
OUT EARLY.

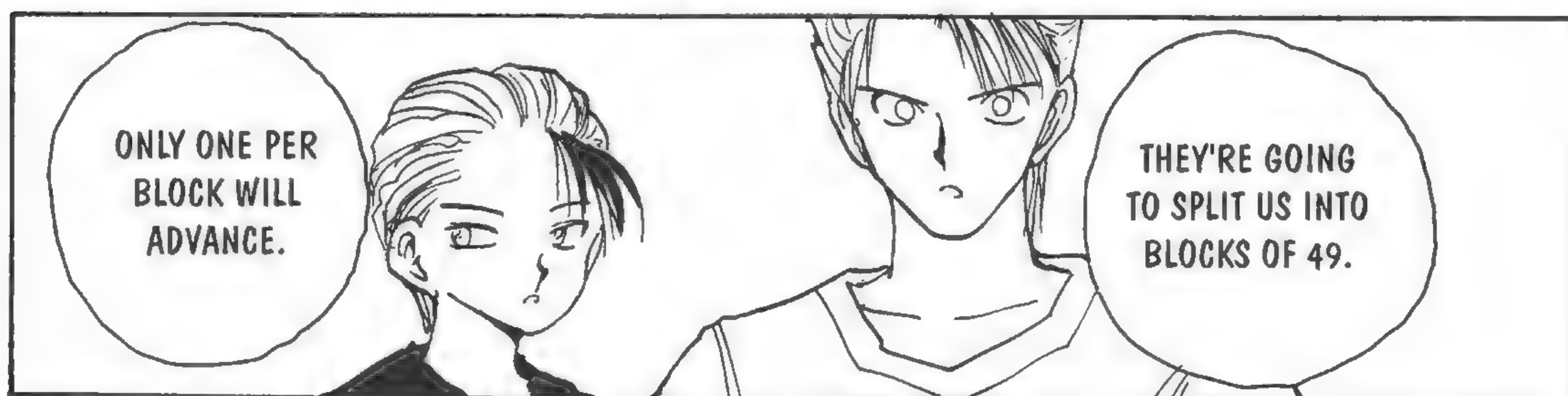


WELL, IT'S  
RESULTS THAT  
MATTER,  
RIGHT?

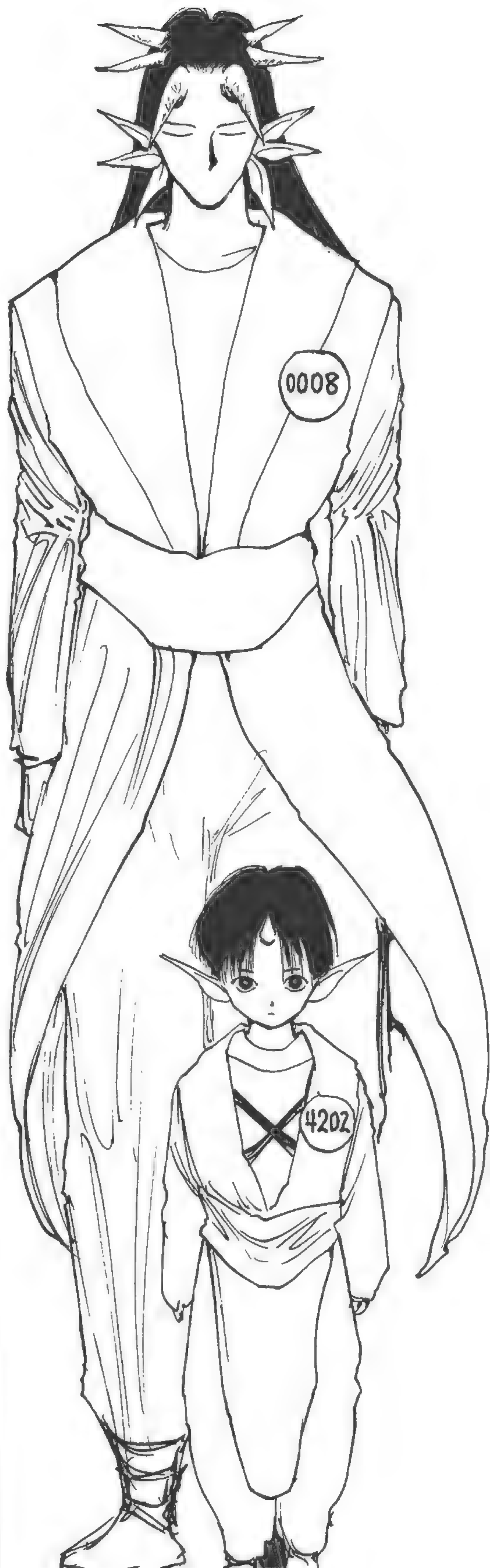
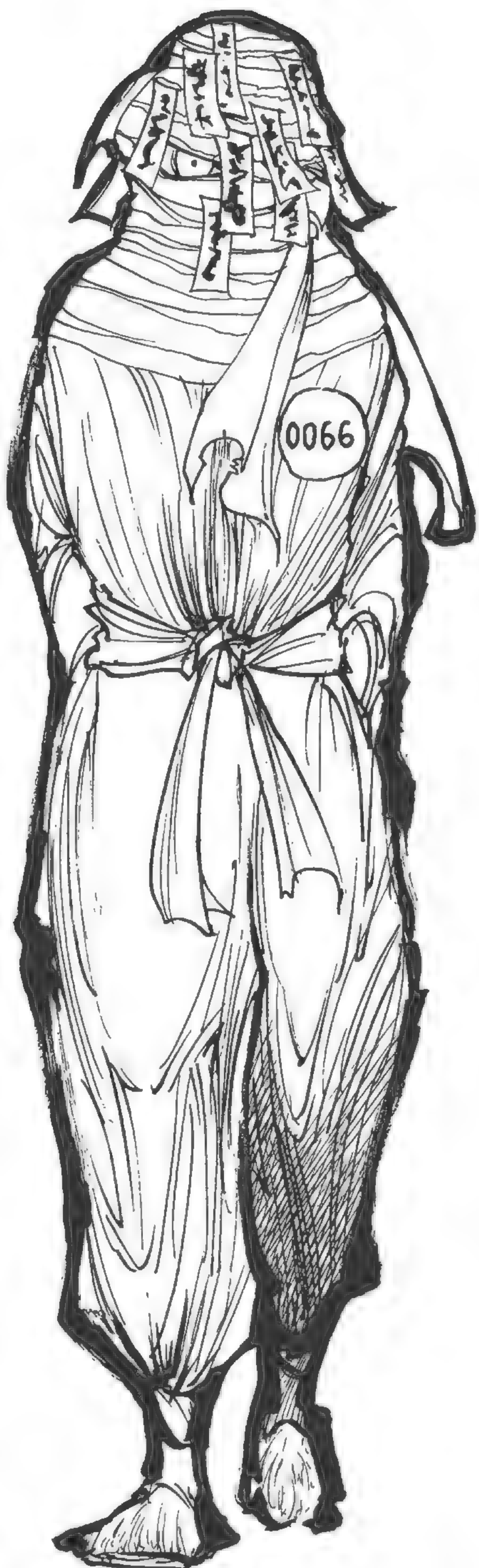
IN THAT CASE,  
I'LL RULE THE  
DEMON  
PLANE!!



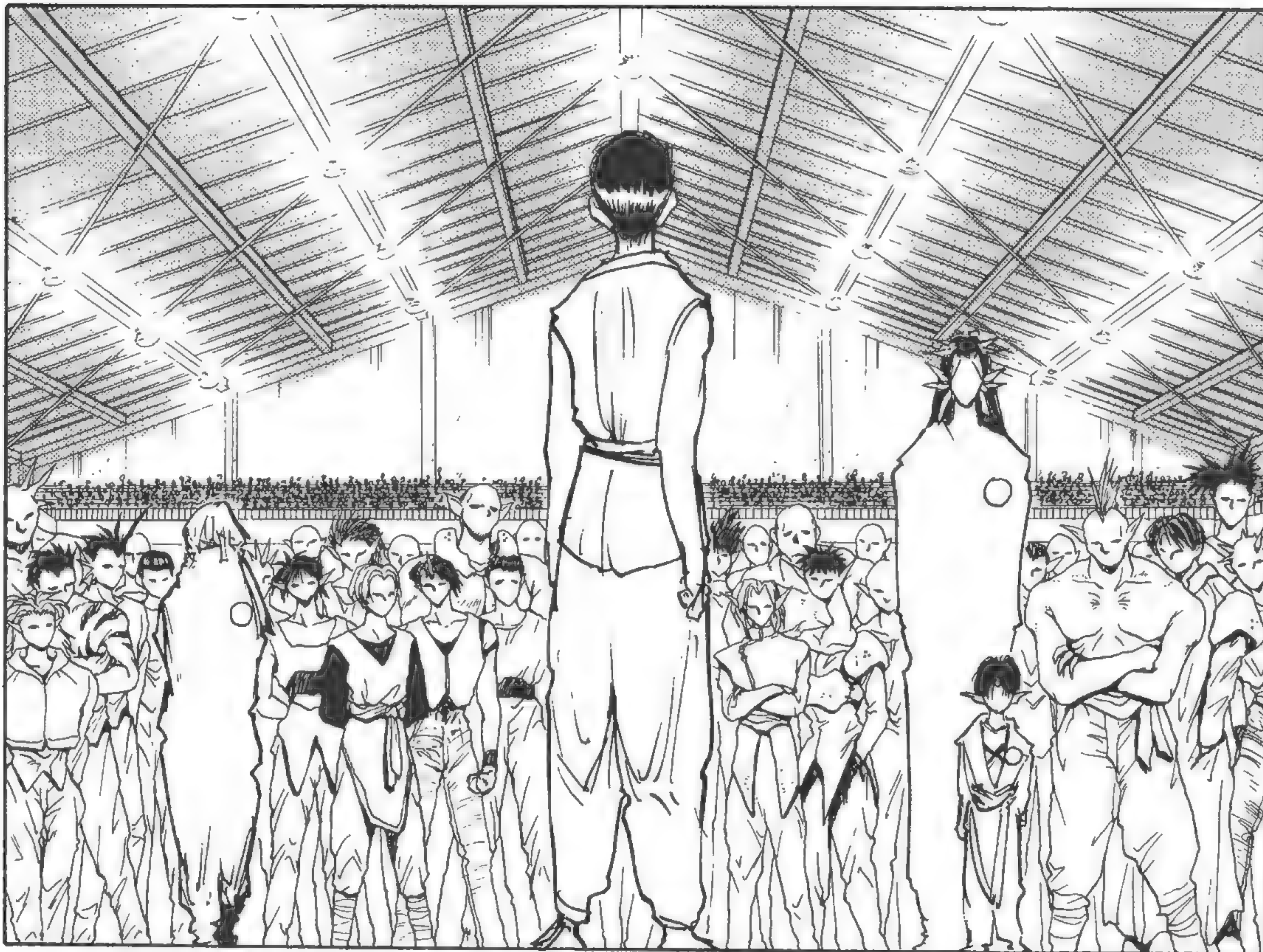






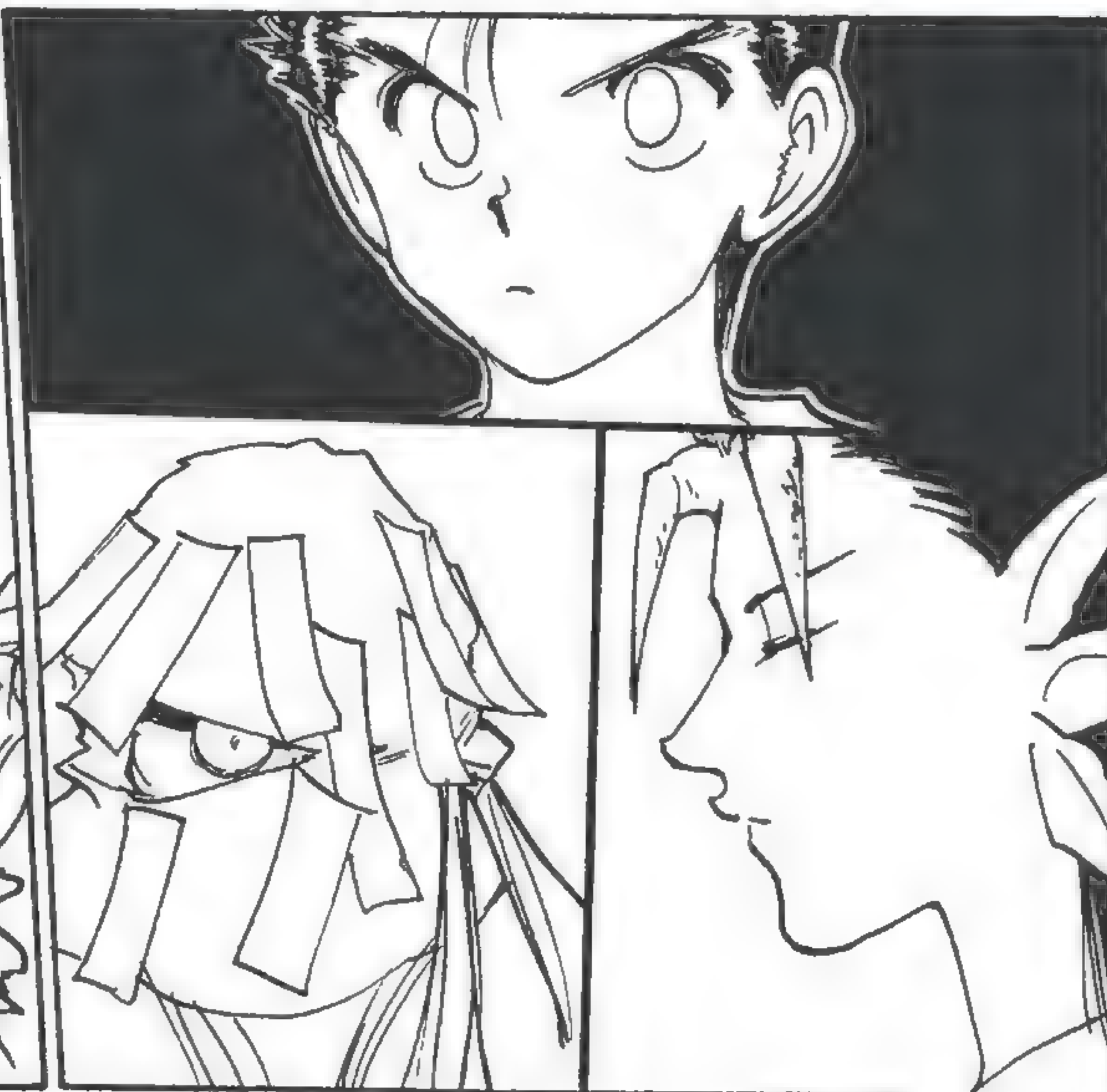






INTERESTING TO  
NOTE THAT YOMI IS  
ACCOMPANIED BY A  
CHILD WEARING A  
NUMBER BADGE!  
ARE WE  
LOOKING AT A LATE  
ENTRY HERE?

AWRIGHT FOLKS,  
MUKURO AND  
YOMI HAVE JUST  
ARRIVED AT  
THE HALL!  
THEY'RE NOW  
APPROACHING  
URAMESHI!



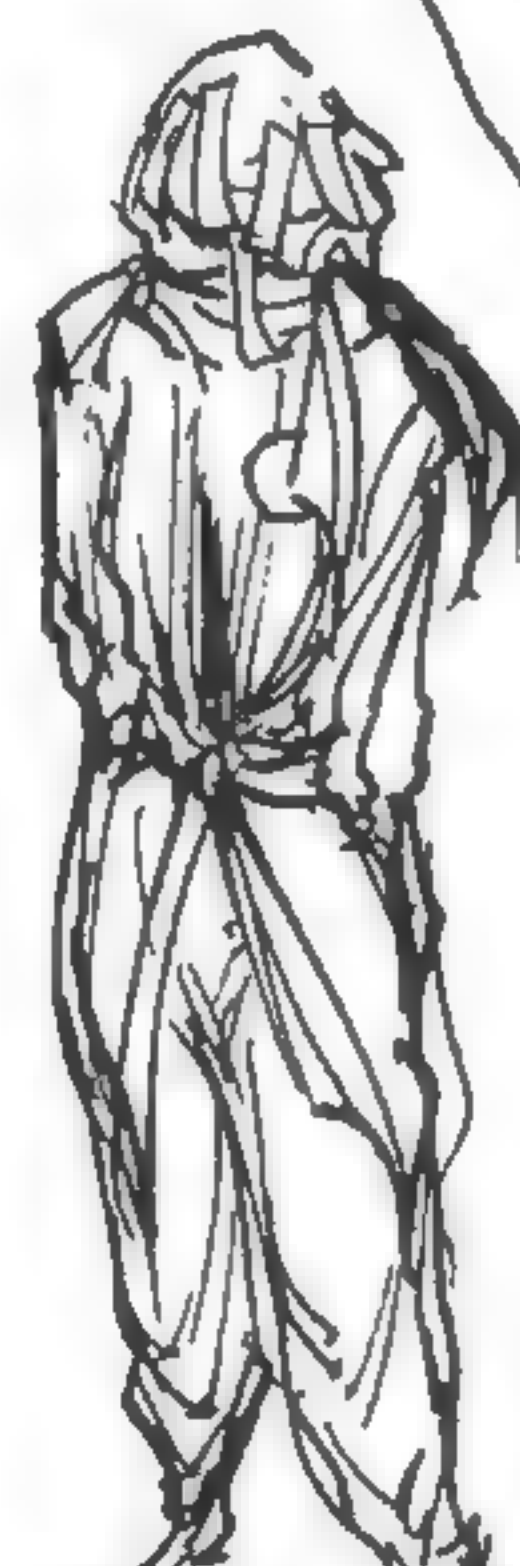
A FAIR  
BIT.

YOU'VE  
IMPROVED,  
I SEE.





YEAH...  
THEY'RE HERE  
IN THE HALL  
SOMEWHERE.

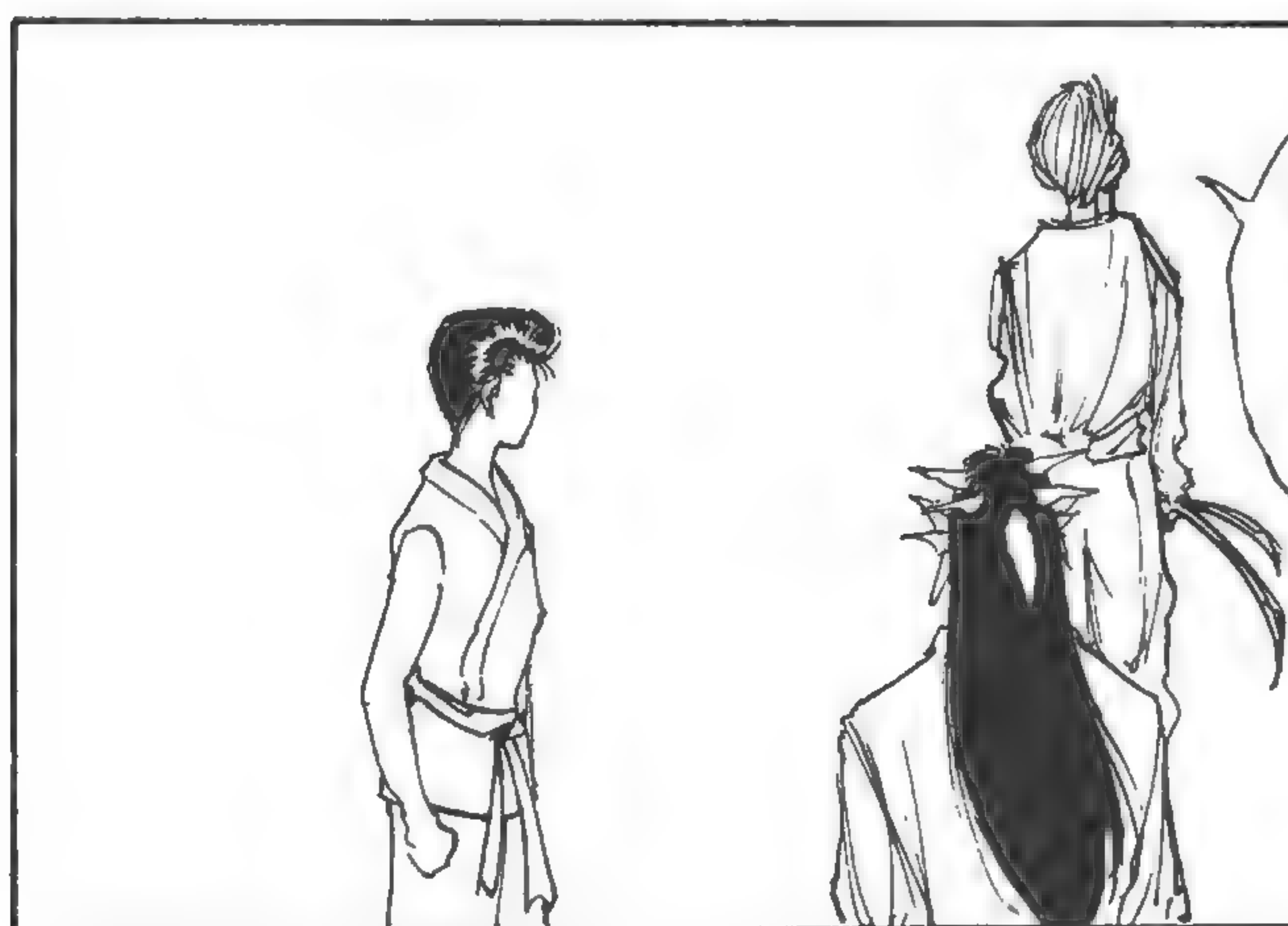


SO THOSE  
FEROCIOUS  
AURAS WERE  
RAIZEN'S OLD  
FRIENDS?



I EXPECT YOU  
TO BE AT MY  
LEVEL WHEN  
I FIGHT YOU.

REAL COMBAT  
IS THE BEST  
TRAINING.



SO DON'T GET  
TAKEN OUT  
BEFORE  
THEN, OKAY?









THAT'S HOW  
IT WORKS.

SO IF YOU  
AND I FIGHT,  
IT'LL BE  
FOR REAL?



HM...?  
YES...

AND WE'RE  
ENEMIES HERE,  
IS THAT RIGHT?



OKAY THEN, IF YOU  
HOLD BACK I'LL  
NEVER SPEAK TO  
YOU AGAIN!!



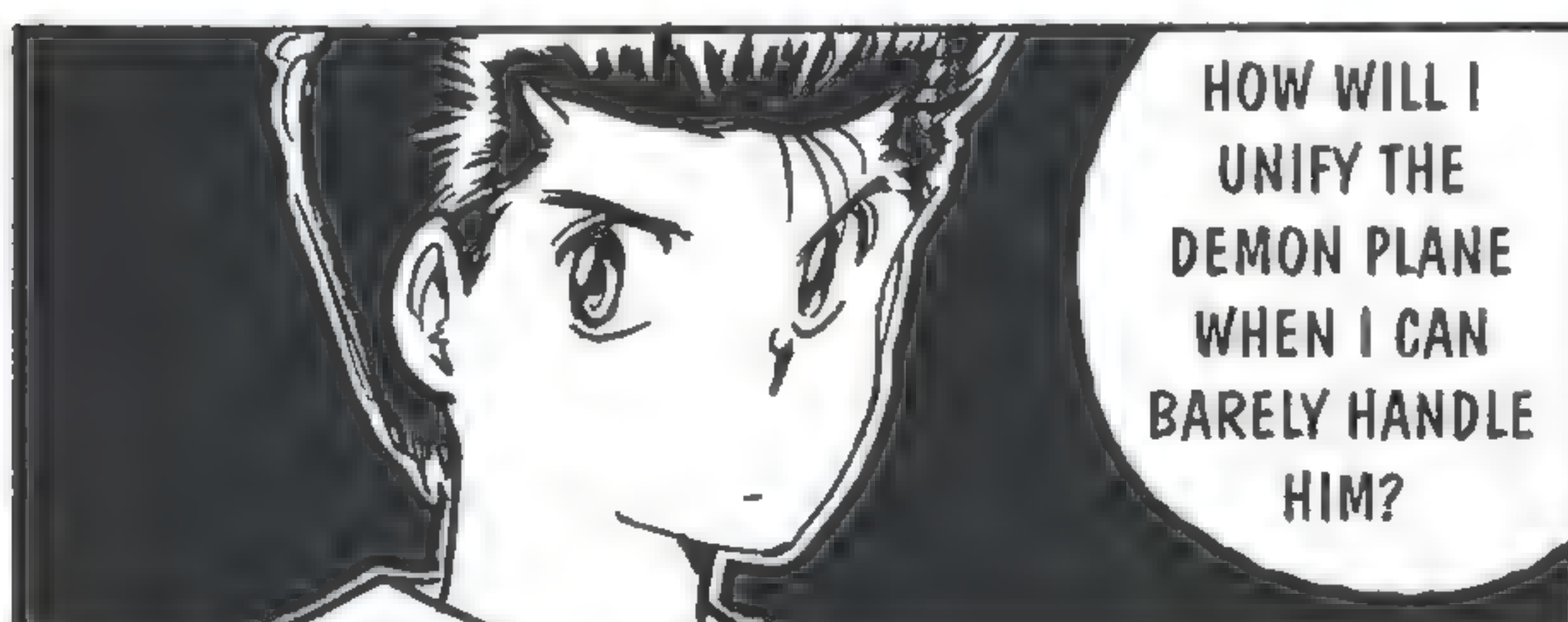
RATHER  
HUMBLING,  
IN FACT.

BEING A  
PARENT HAS  
BEEN A  
STRUGGLE.



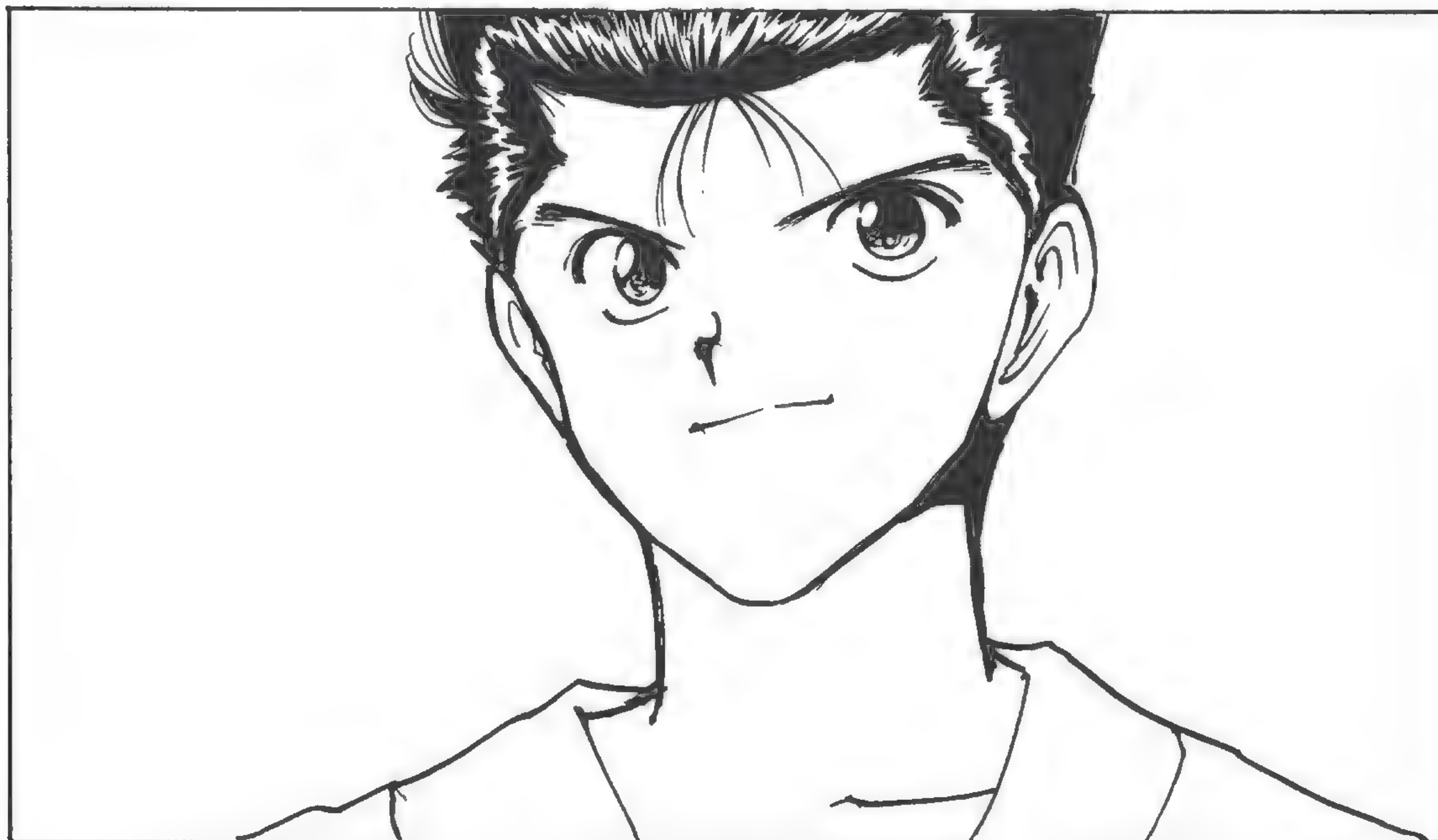
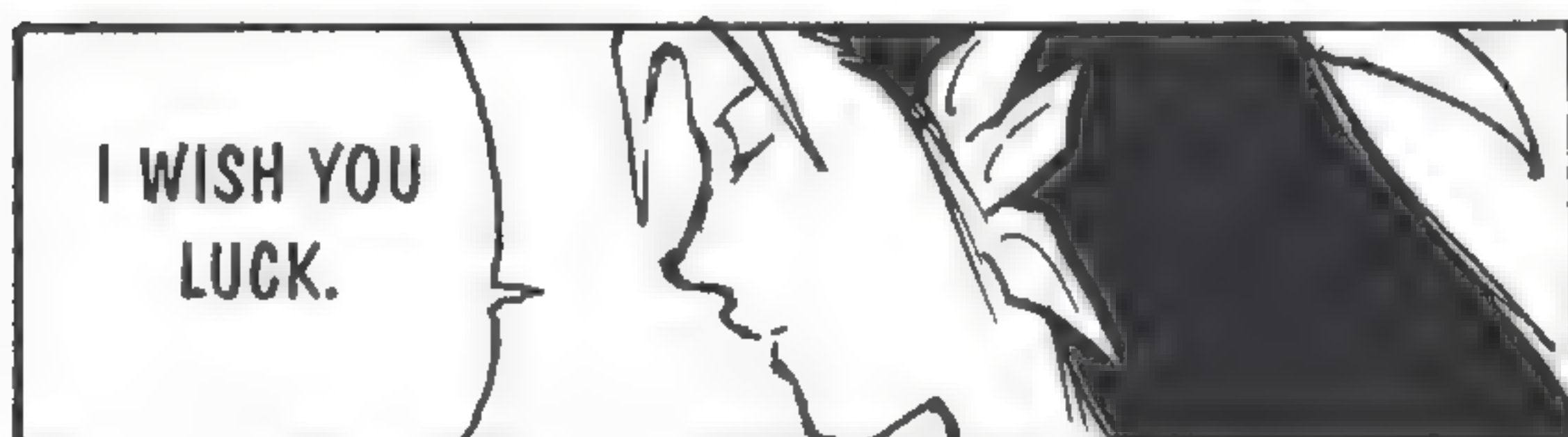
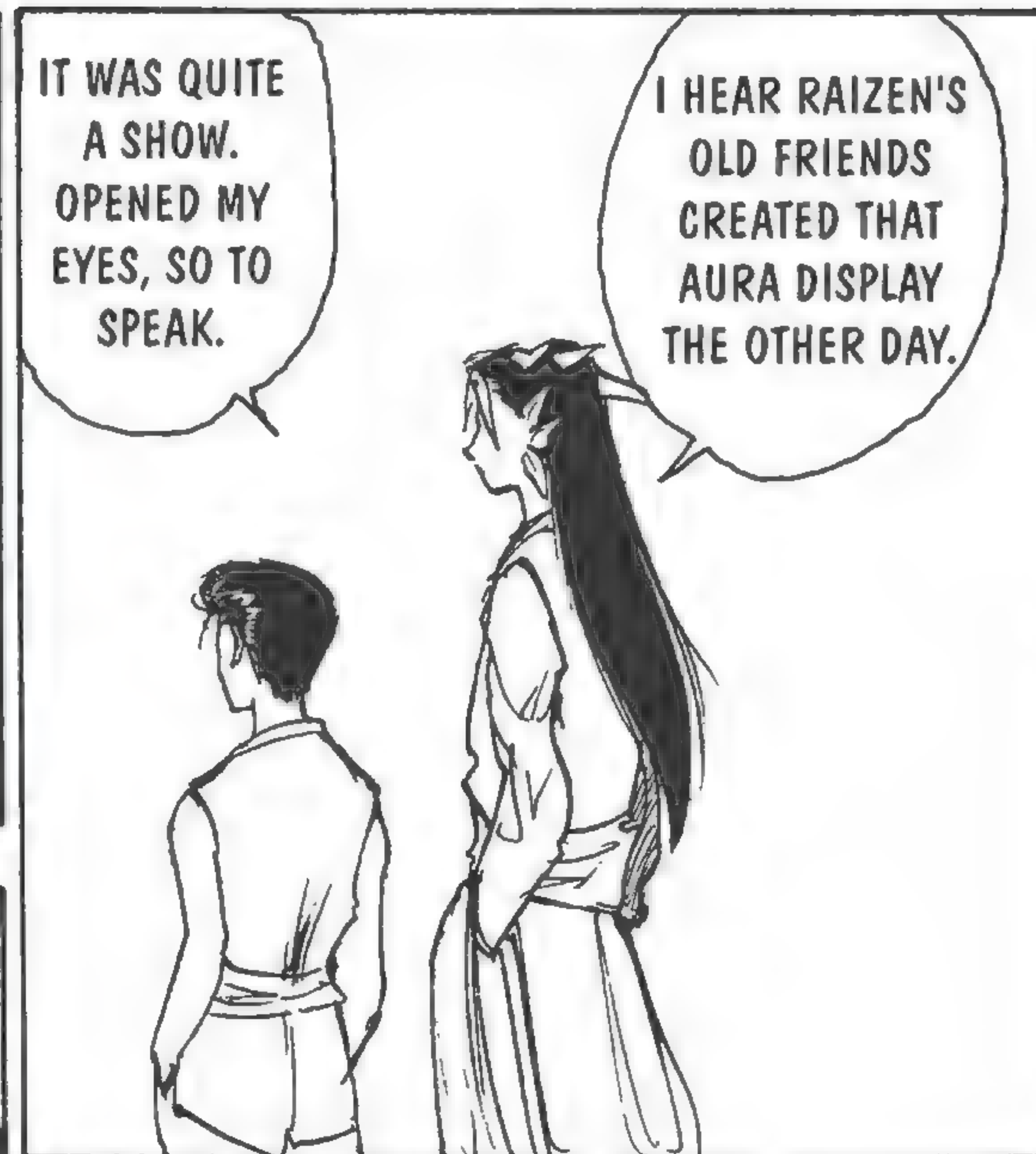
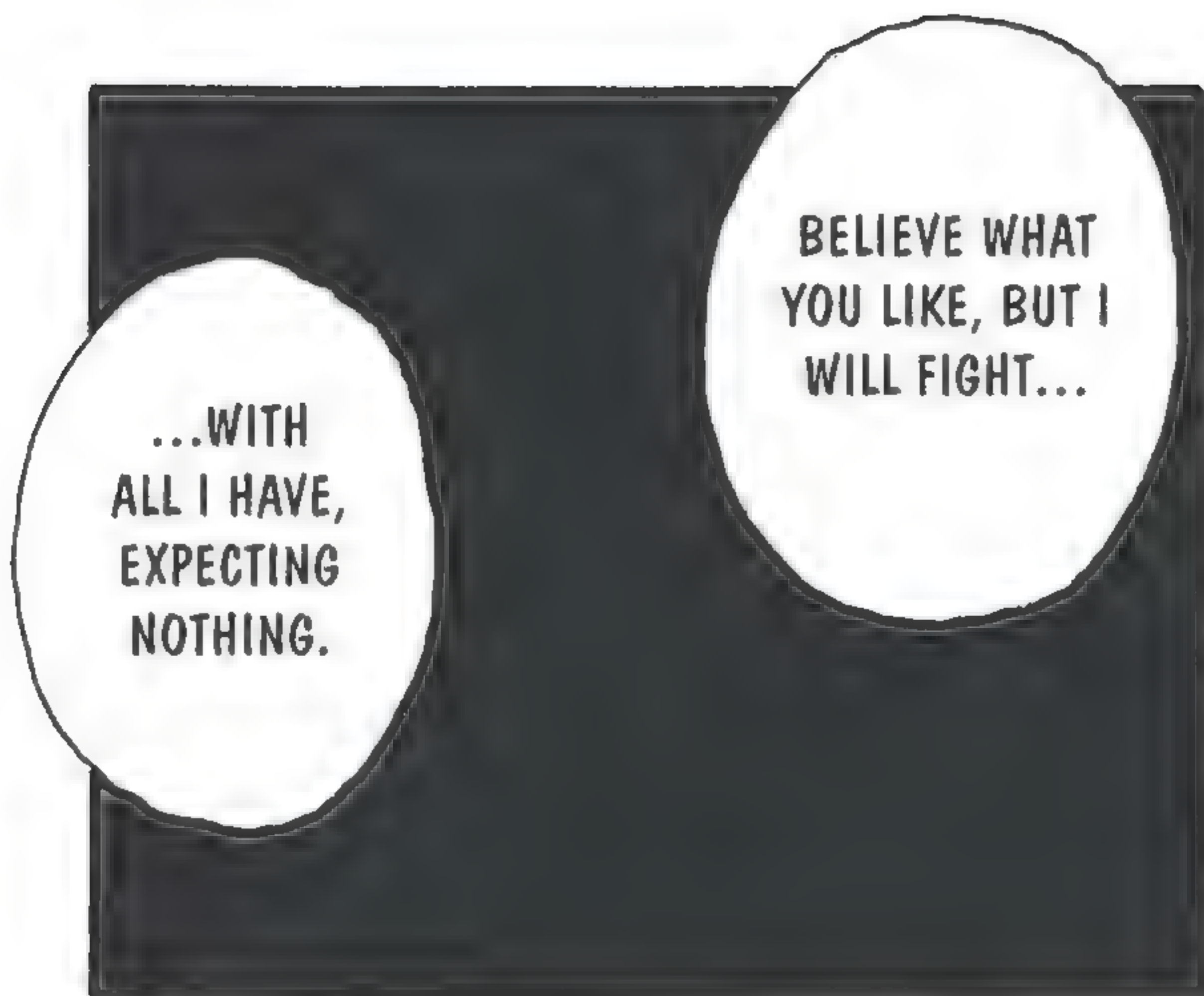
ISN'T HE,  
THOUGH?

WHAT AN  
OBNOXIOUS  
BRAT.



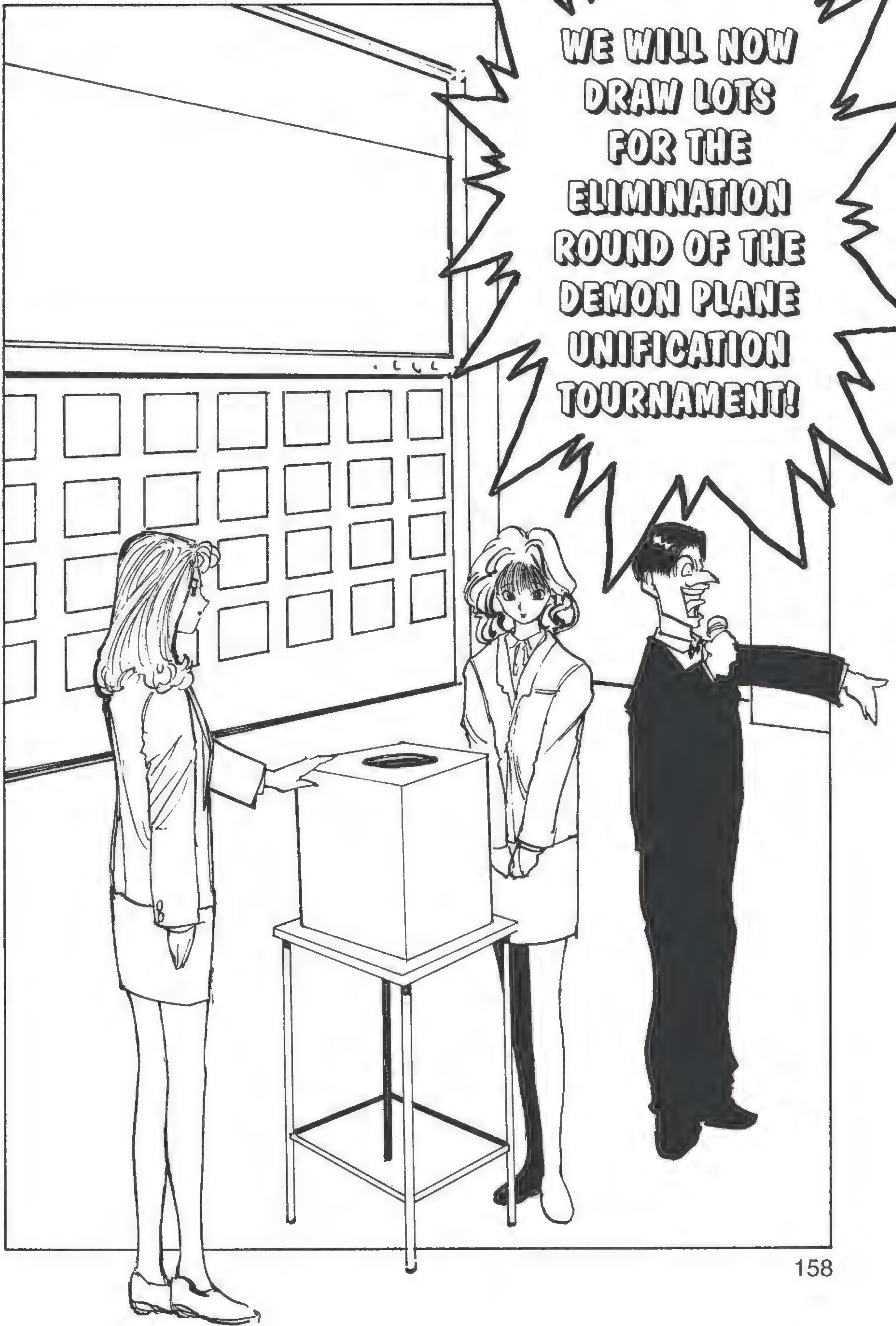
HOW WILL I  
UNIFY THE  
DEMON PLANE  
WHEN I CAN  
BARELY HANDLE  
HIM?







**WE WILL NOW  
DRAW LOTS  
FOR THE  
ELIMINATION  
ROUND OF THE  
DEMON PLANE  
UNIFICATION  
TOURNAMENT!**










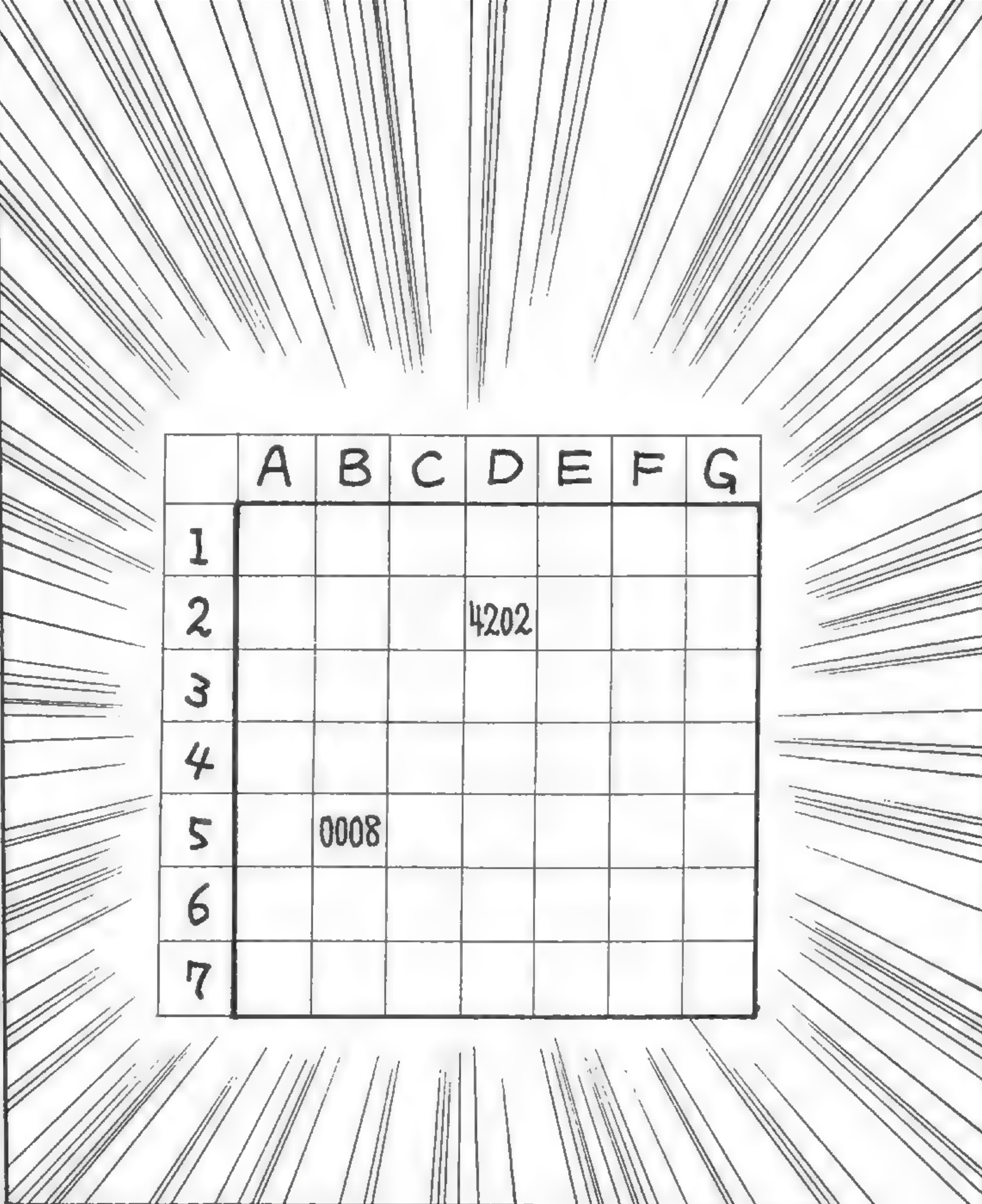




**BUZZ**  
**BUZZ**  
**MUTTER**  
**MUTTER**

IN AN ASTOUNDING  
TWIST, YOMI AND  
HIS SON SHURA  
HAVE ENDED UP IN  
THE SAME BLOCK!

LOOKS LIKE THIS  
TOURNAMENT'S  
GONNA GET OFF  
TO A ROUSING  
START!

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2				4202			
3							
4							
5		0008					
6							
7							

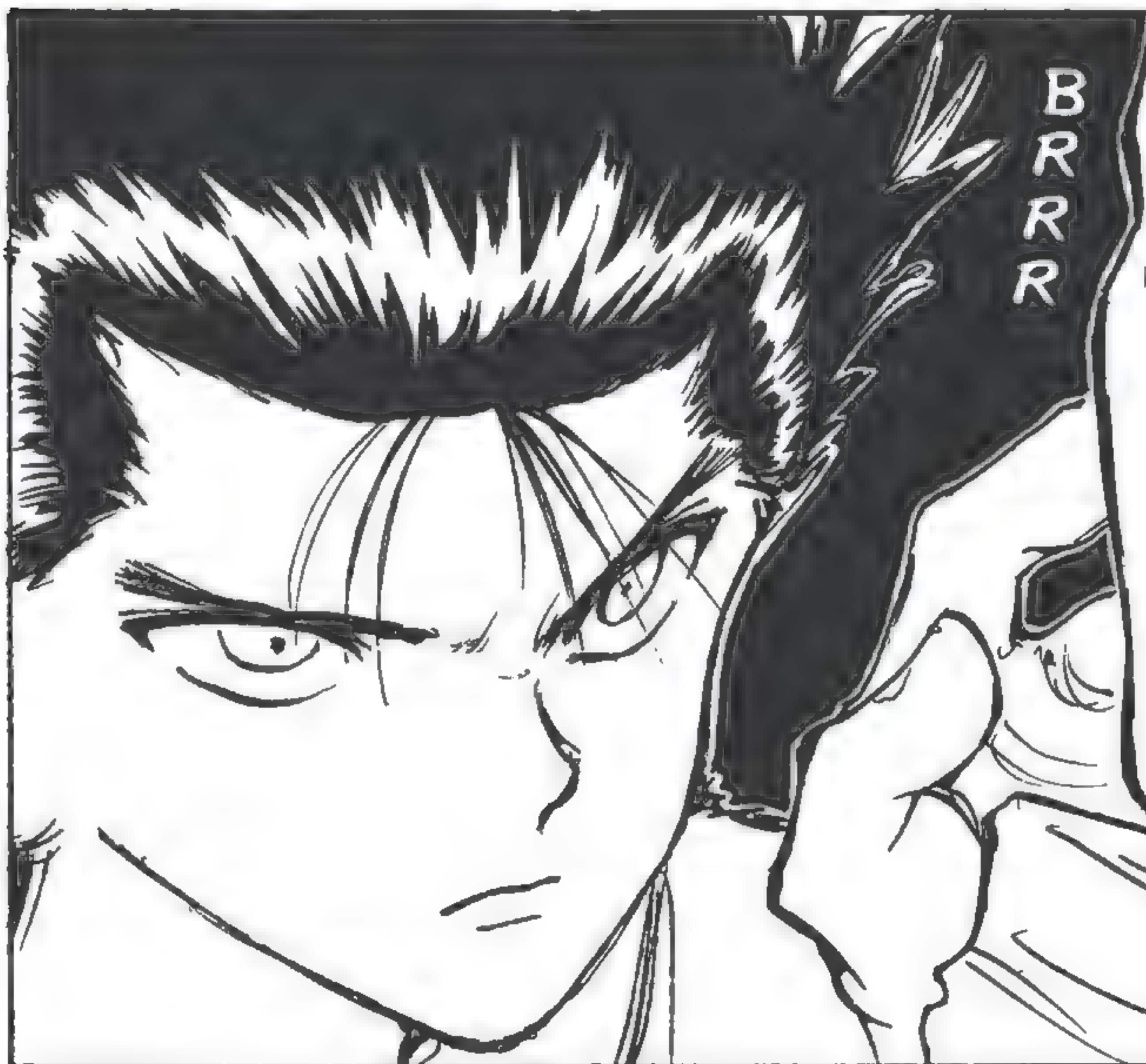

**YA**  
**NK**



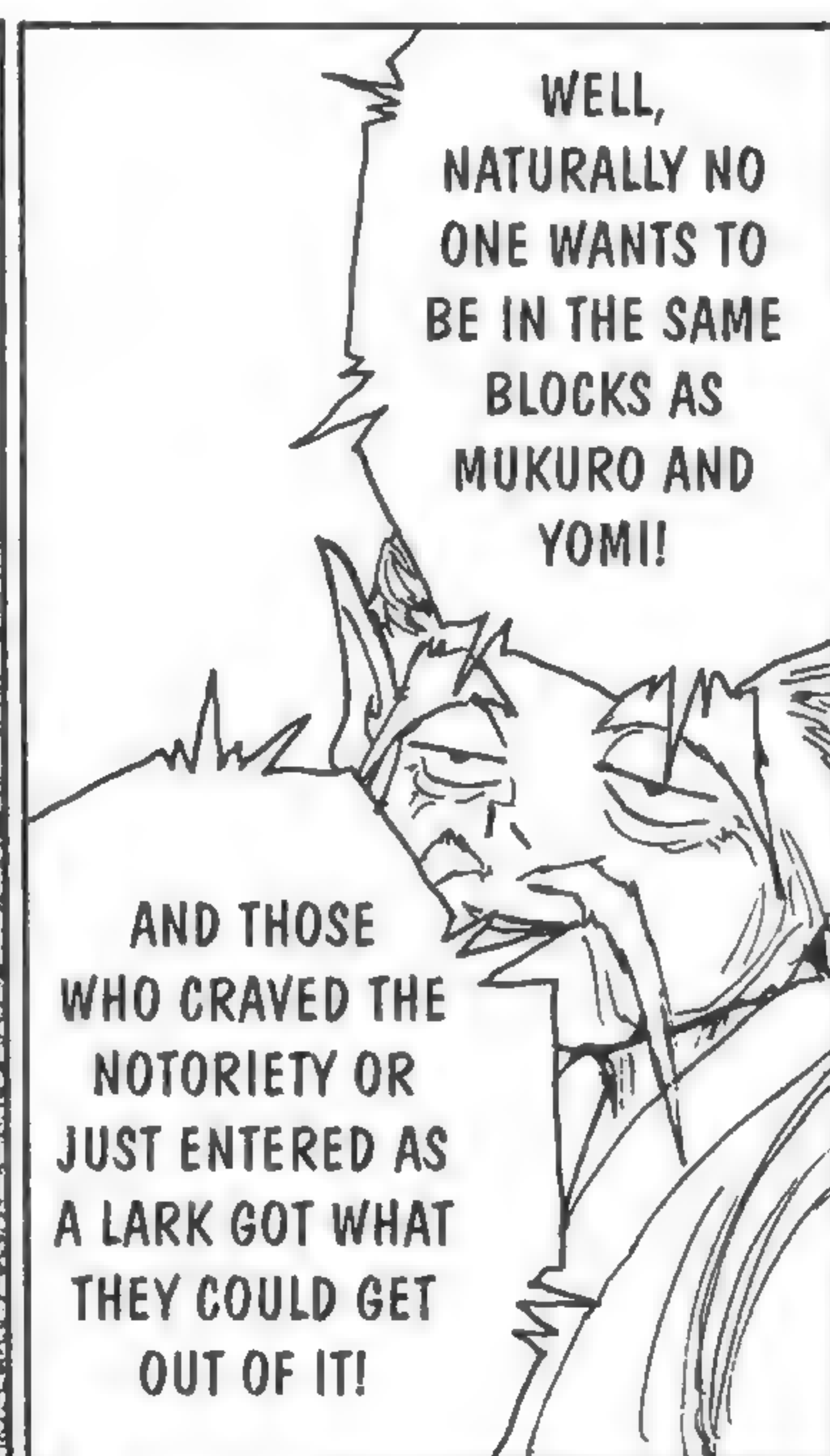
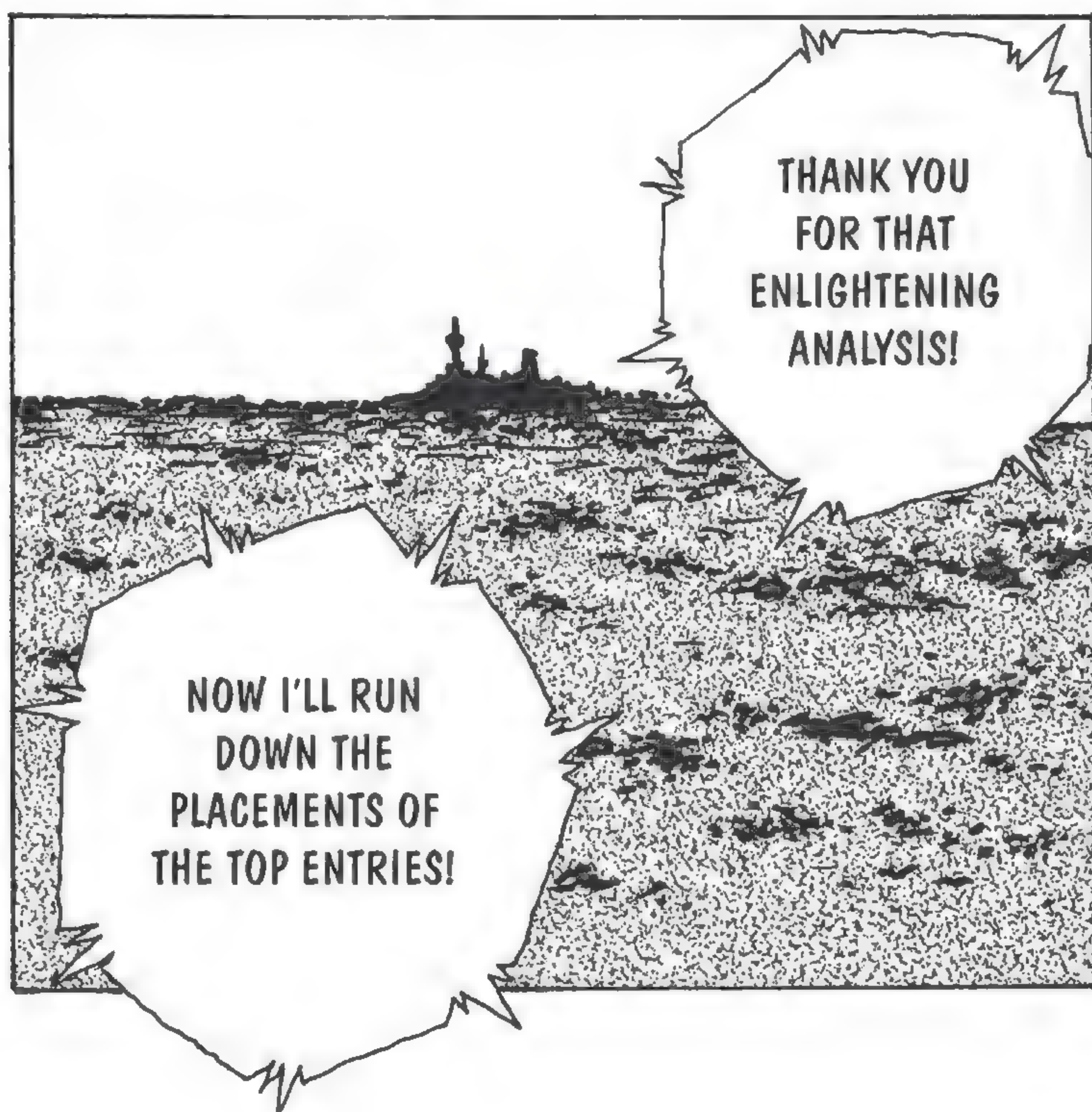
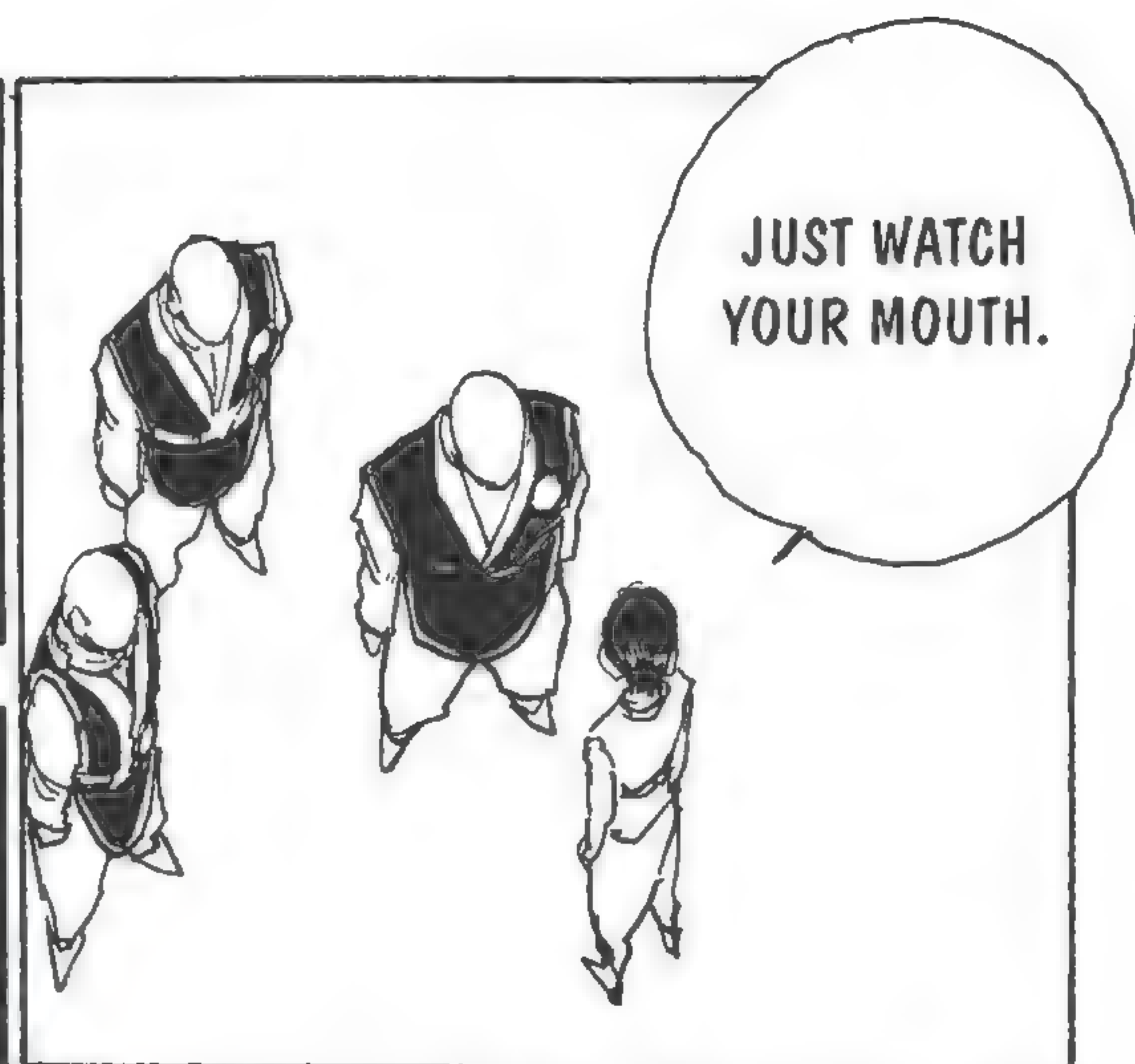
THAT'LL  
MAKE THINGS  
EASIER  
FOR US.



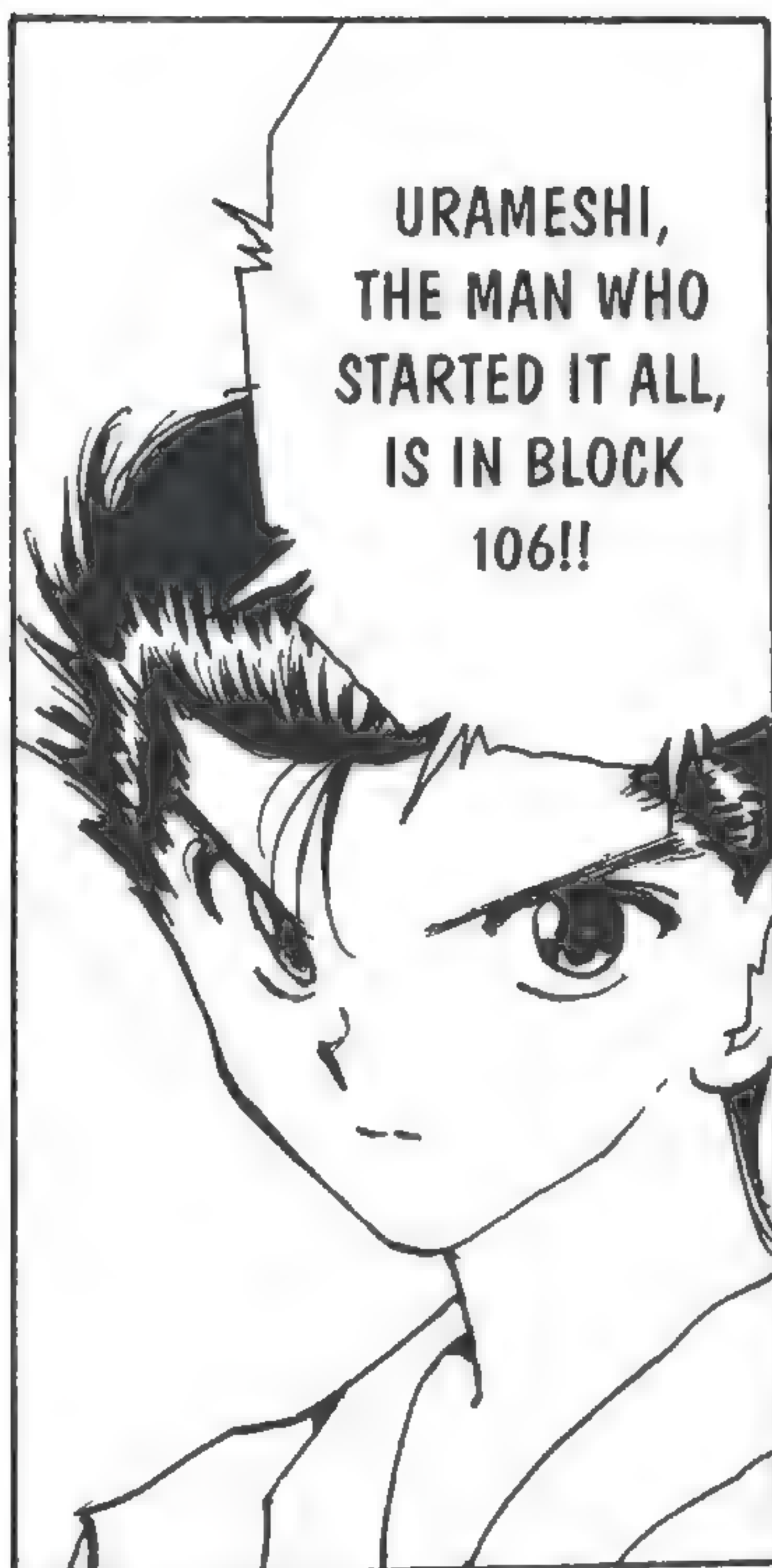
**BRRR**

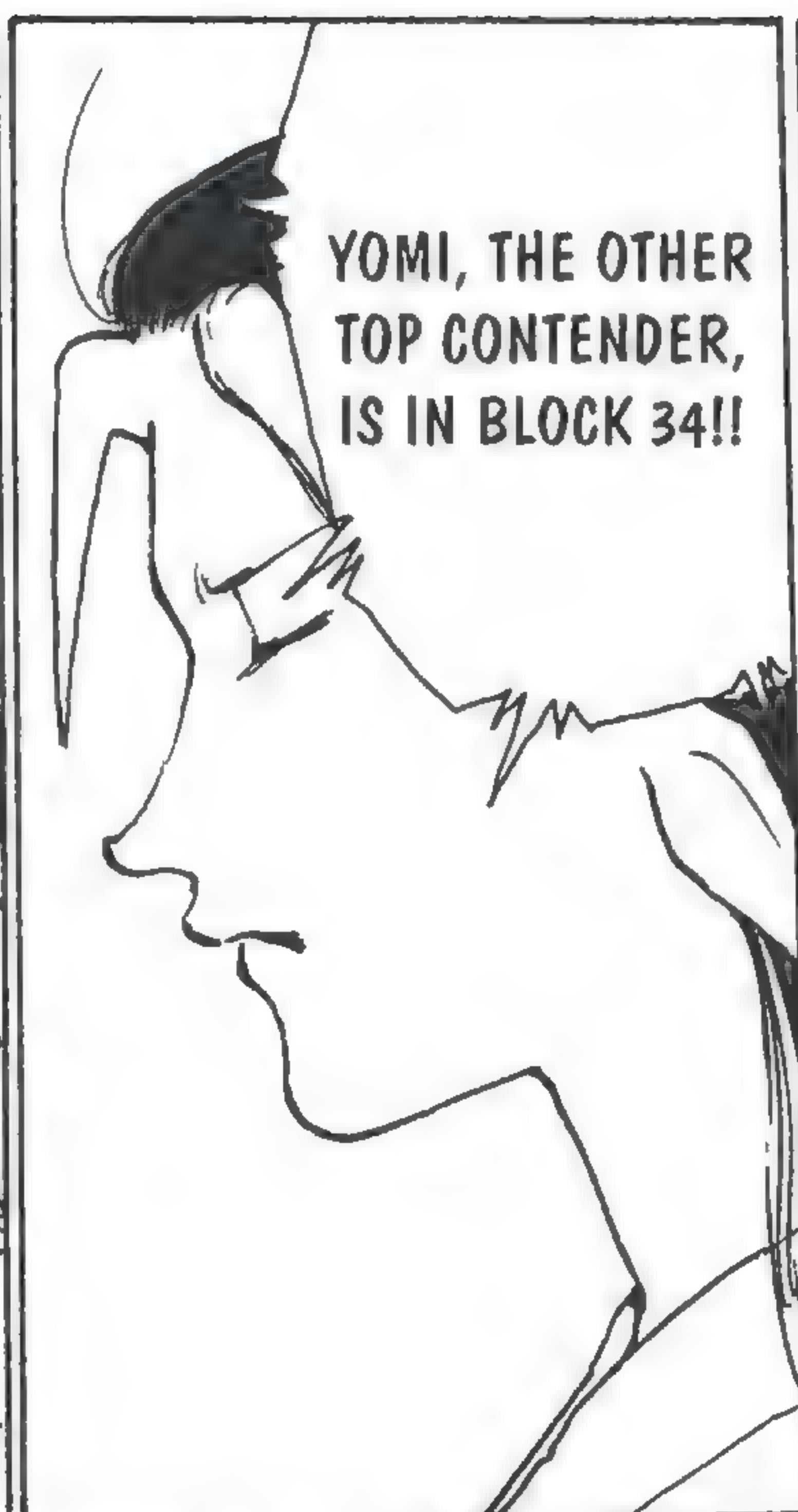








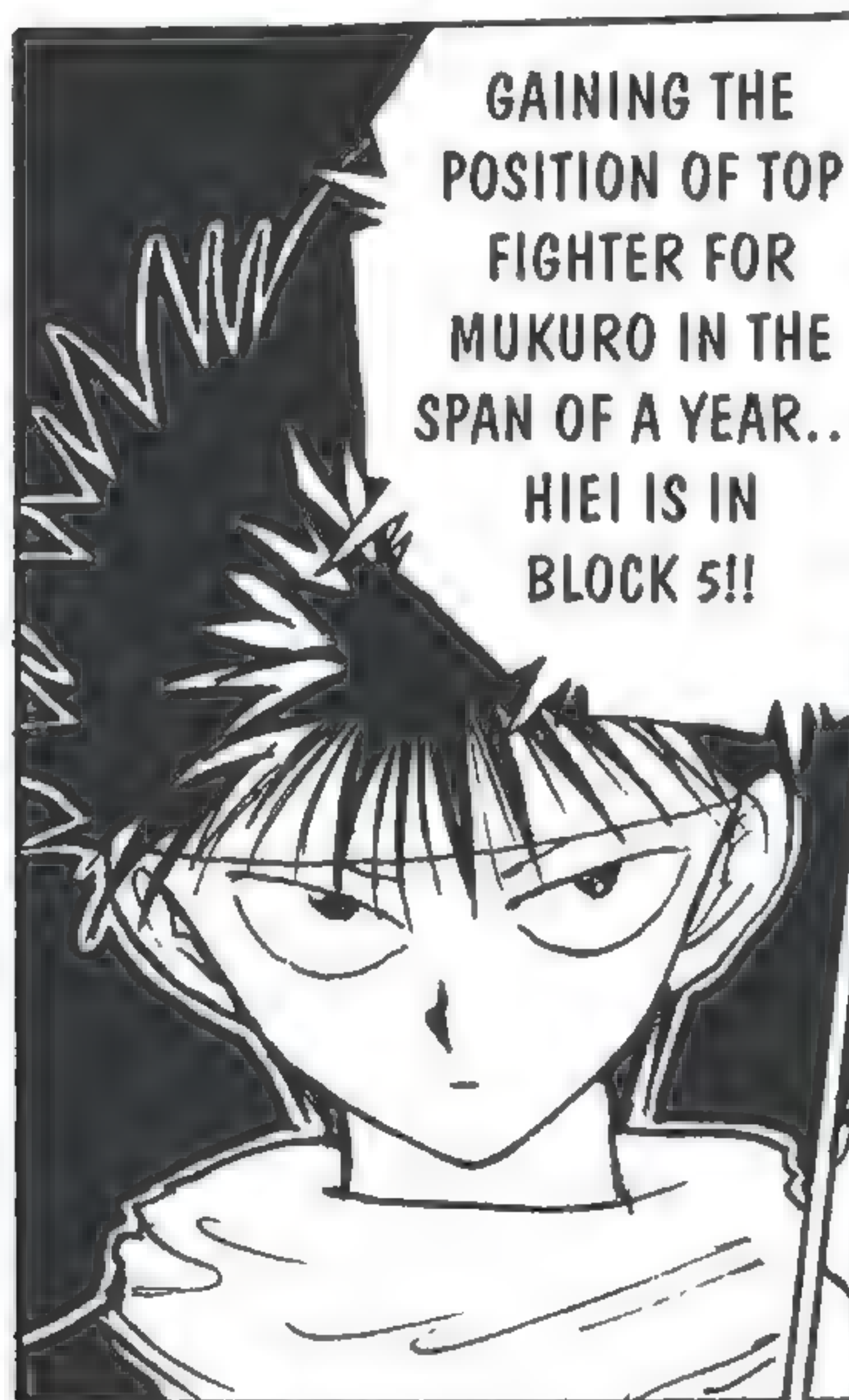
URAMESHI,  
THE MAN WHO  
STARTED IT ALL,  
IS IN BLOCK  
106!!



YOMI, THE OTHER  
TOP CONTENDER,  
IS IN BLOCK 34!!



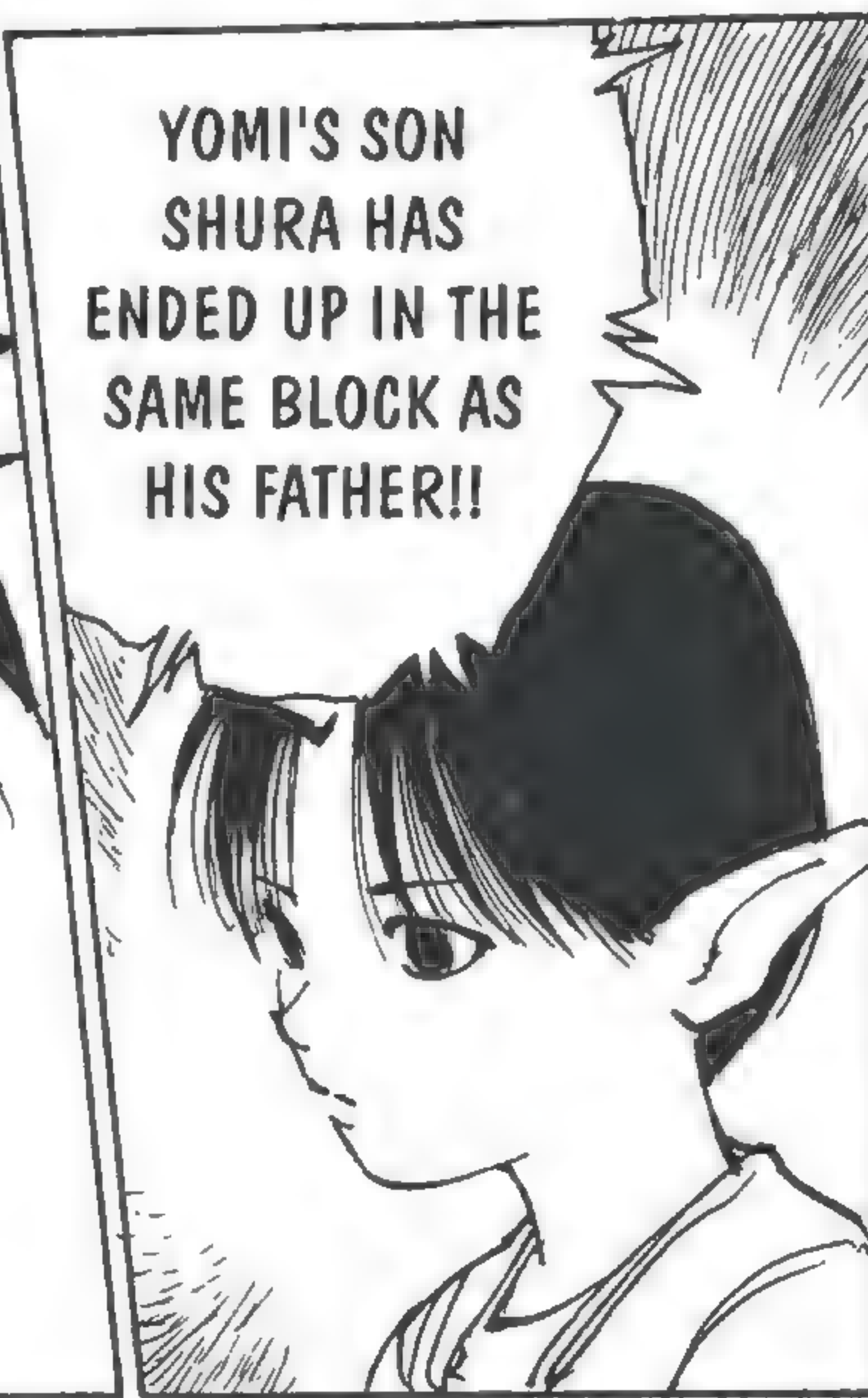
MUKURO, ONE  
OF THE CLEAR  
FAVORITES, IS  
IN BLOCK 74!!



GAINING THE  
POSITION OF TOP  
FIGHTER FOR  
MUKURO IN THE  
SPAN OF A YEAR...  
HIEI IS IN  
BLOCK 5!!



ONCE YOMI'S  
GENERAL, NOW  
IN THE TOURNA-  
MENT ON HIS  
OWN BEHALF...  
KURAMA IS IN  
BLOCK 63!!



YOMI'S SON  
SHURA HAS  
ENDED UP IN THE  
SAME BLOCK AS  
HIS FATHER!!



ONCE MUKURO'S  
TOP FIGHTER,  
NOW OUT TO  
BRING HER  
DOWN... KYLIN  
IS IN BLOCK 23!!



HOPING TO  
CARRY OUT  
RAIZEN'S FINAL  
WISHES...  
HOKUSHIN AND  
HIS THREE  
ASSOCIATES ARE  
IN BLOCK 90!





**JIN**  
BLOCK 46



**LINK**  
BLOCK 8



**CHU**  
BLOCK 97



**TOYA**  
BLOCK 31



**SHISHI-  
WAKAMARU**  
BLOCK 33



**SUZUKI**  
BLOCK 54



**ENKI**  
BLOCK 59

**OTHERS  
ALSO  
COVETING**



**SOUKETSU**  
BLOCK 85



**TETSUZAN**  
BLOCK 11

**THE TOP  
SPOT!**



**KOKOH**  
BLOCK 77



**DENHO**  
BLOCK 26



**SAIZO**  
BLOCK 29



**SHU**  
BLOCK 64



**NATSUME**  
BLOCK 48



**KUJO**  
BLOCK 128



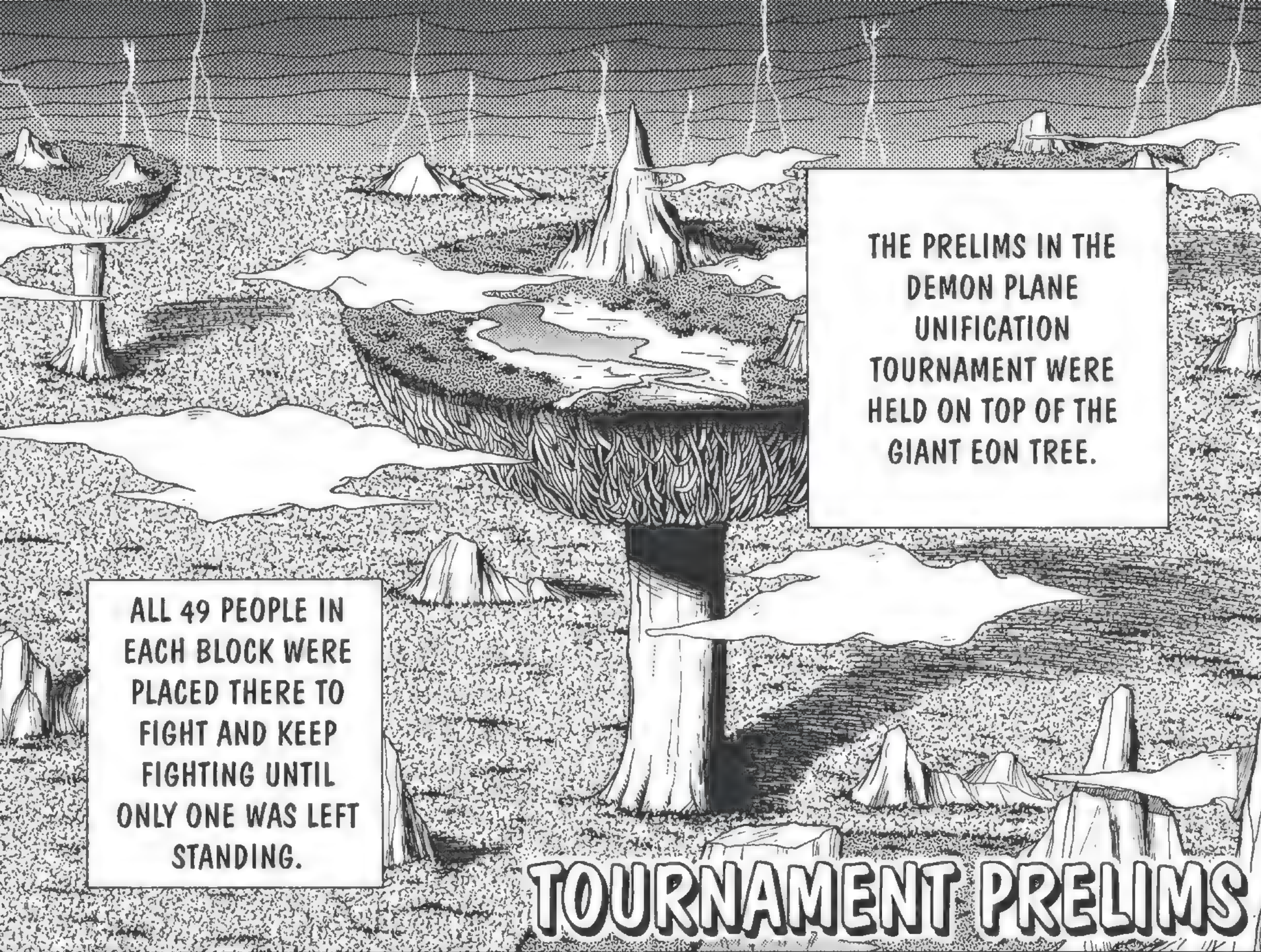
**LET THE  
ELIMINATION  
ROUND  
BEGIN!!!**









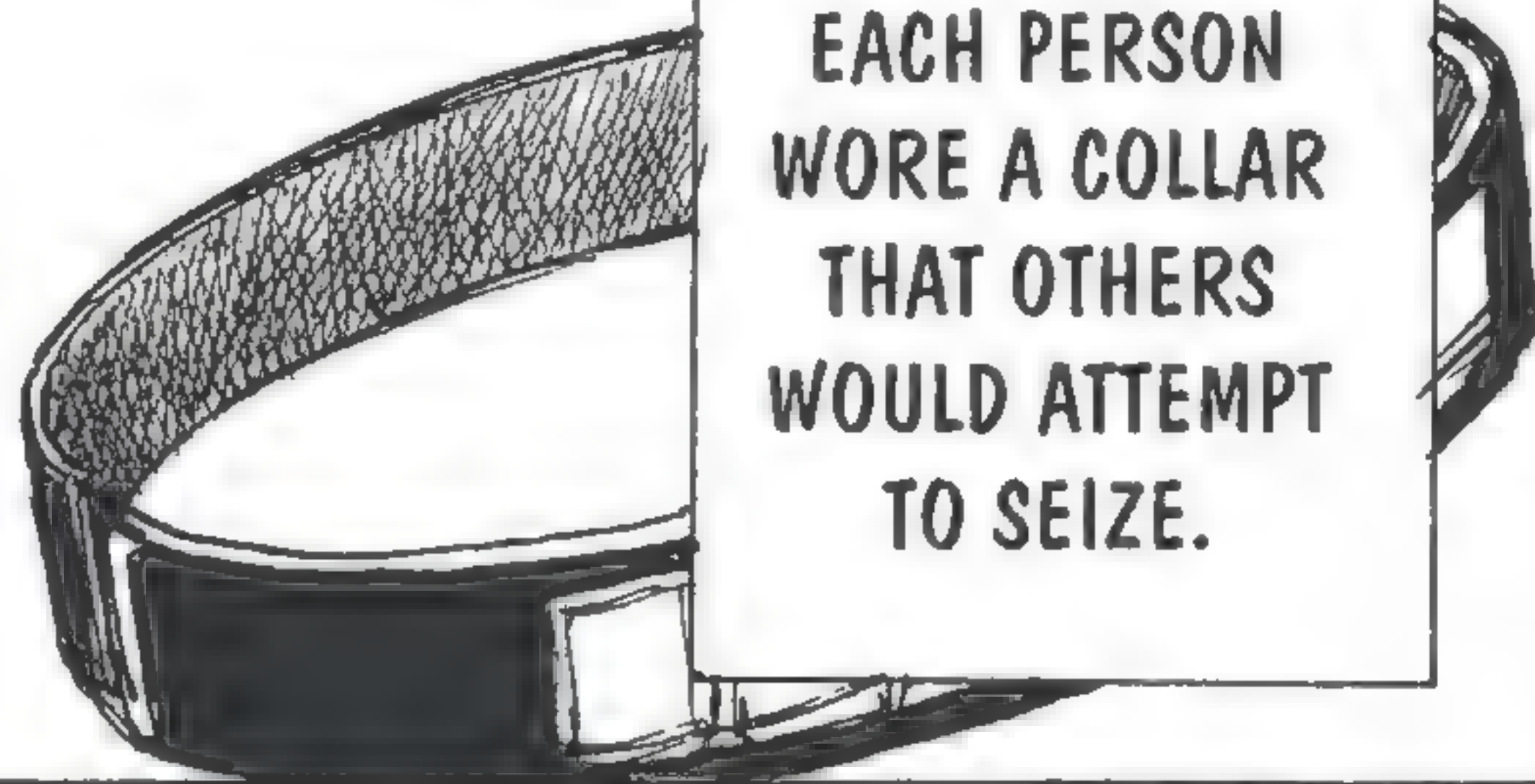


THE PRELIMS IN THE  
DEMON PLANE  
UNIFICATION  
TOURNAMENT WERE  
HELD ON TOP OF THE  
GIANT EON TREE.

ALL 49 PEOPLE IN  
EACH BLOCK WERE  
PLACED THERE TO  
FIGHT AND KEEP  
FIGHTING UNTIL  
ONLY ONE WAS LEFT  
STANDING.

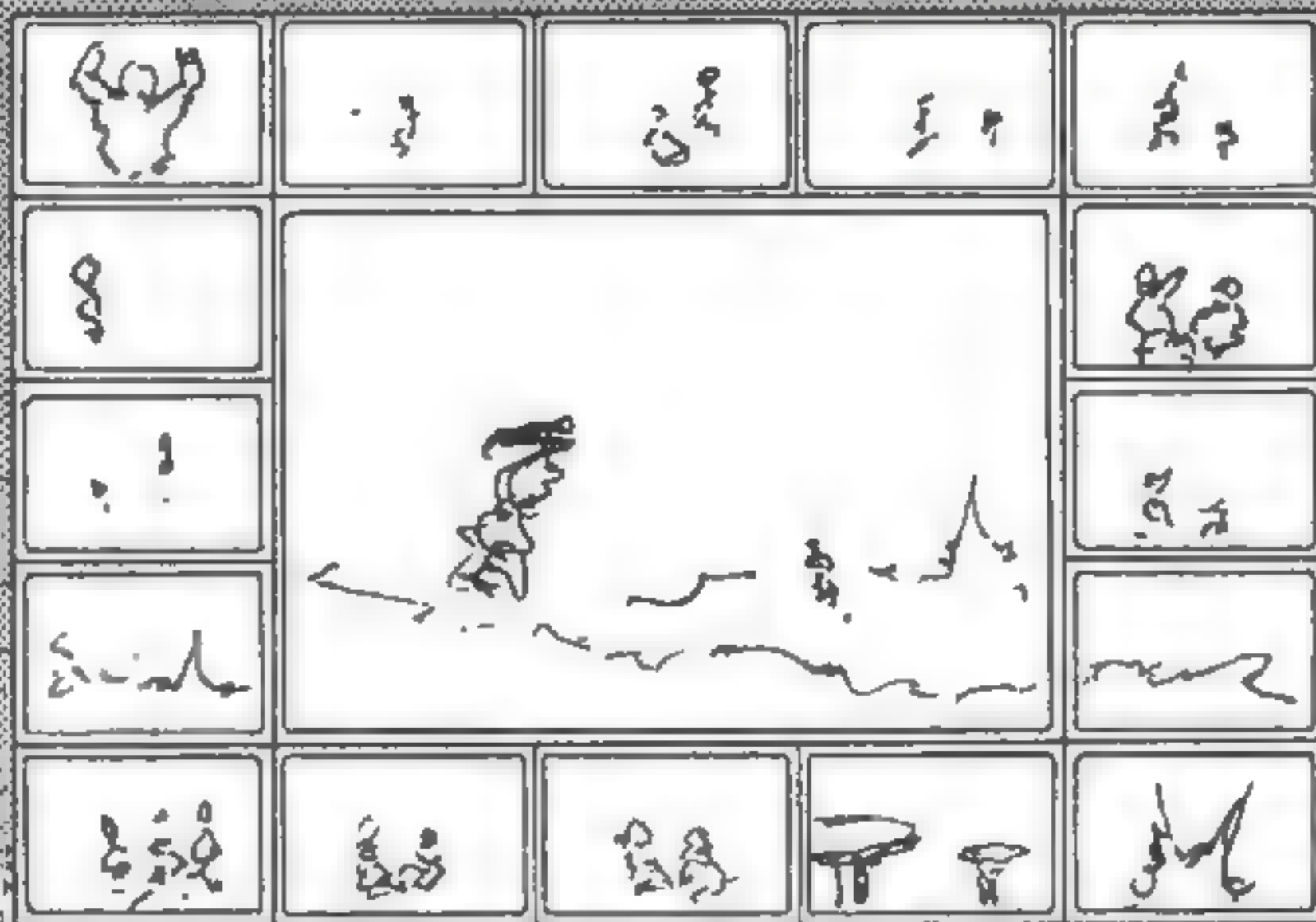
# TOURNAMENT PRELIMS

THE COLLAR COULD  
ONLY BE UNLOCKED BY  
ENTERING A FIVE-DIGIT  
CODE. ONE HAD TO  
EITHER FORCE THE  
WEARER TO DIVULGE  
THE CODE OR KILL HIM.



EACH PERSON  
WORE A COLLAR  
THAT OTHERS  
WOULD ATTEMPT  
TO SEIZE.

THE AUDIENCE COULD  
WATCH THE UNFOLDING  
FIGHTS ON THE  
MONITORS, AND KEEP  
TRACK OF WHO WAS  
STILL IN CONTENTION.  
THEY ROARED IN  
EXCITEMENT...



EACH LOSER  
WAS DELETED  
FROM THE  
LISTING OF  
ENTRANTS  
ON THE  
ILLUMINATED  
TOTE BOARD.



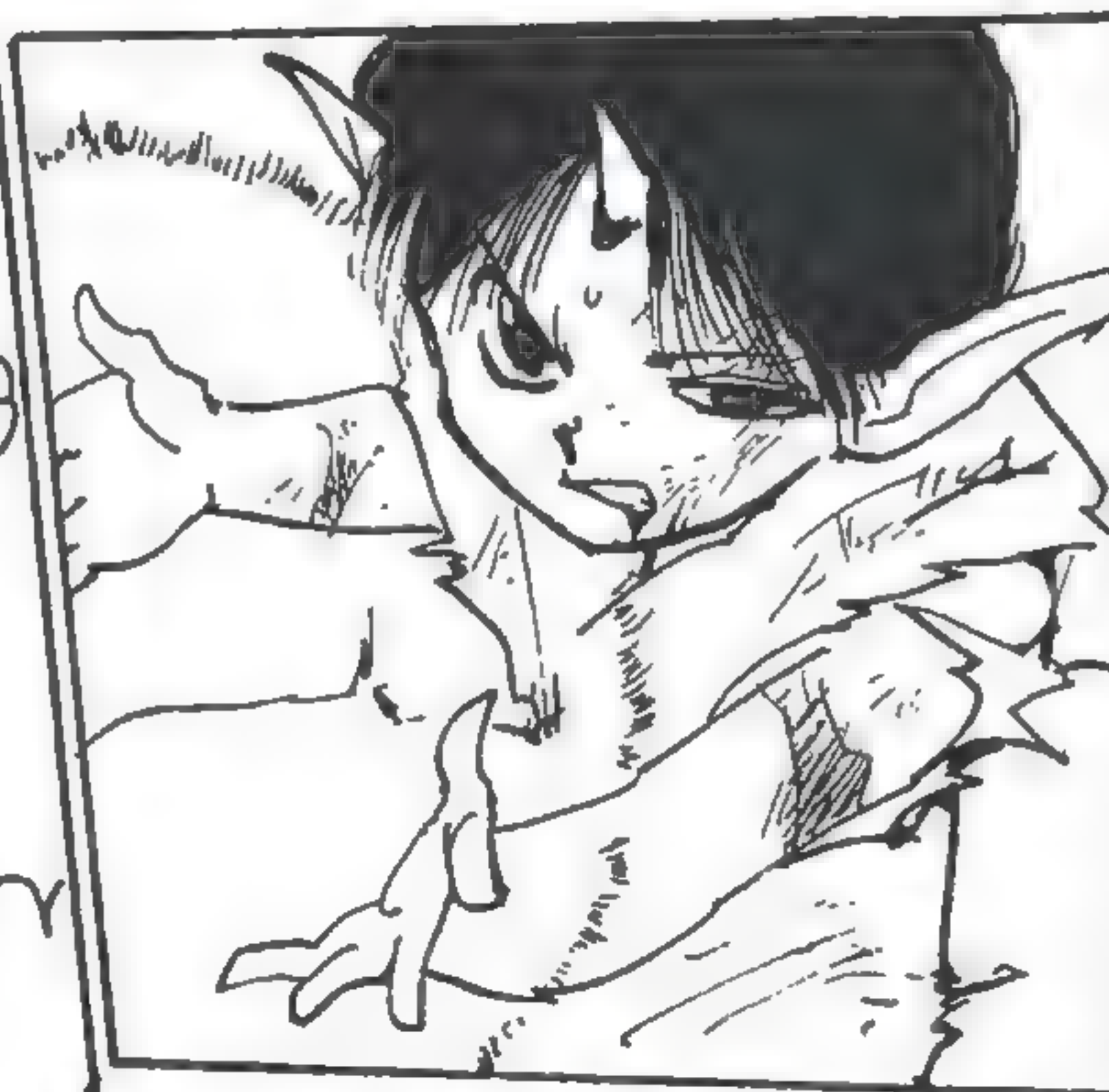
UNTIL THE BATTLE  
BETWEEN YOMI  
AND SHURA, WHICH  
HELD EVERYONE  
SPELLBOUND.



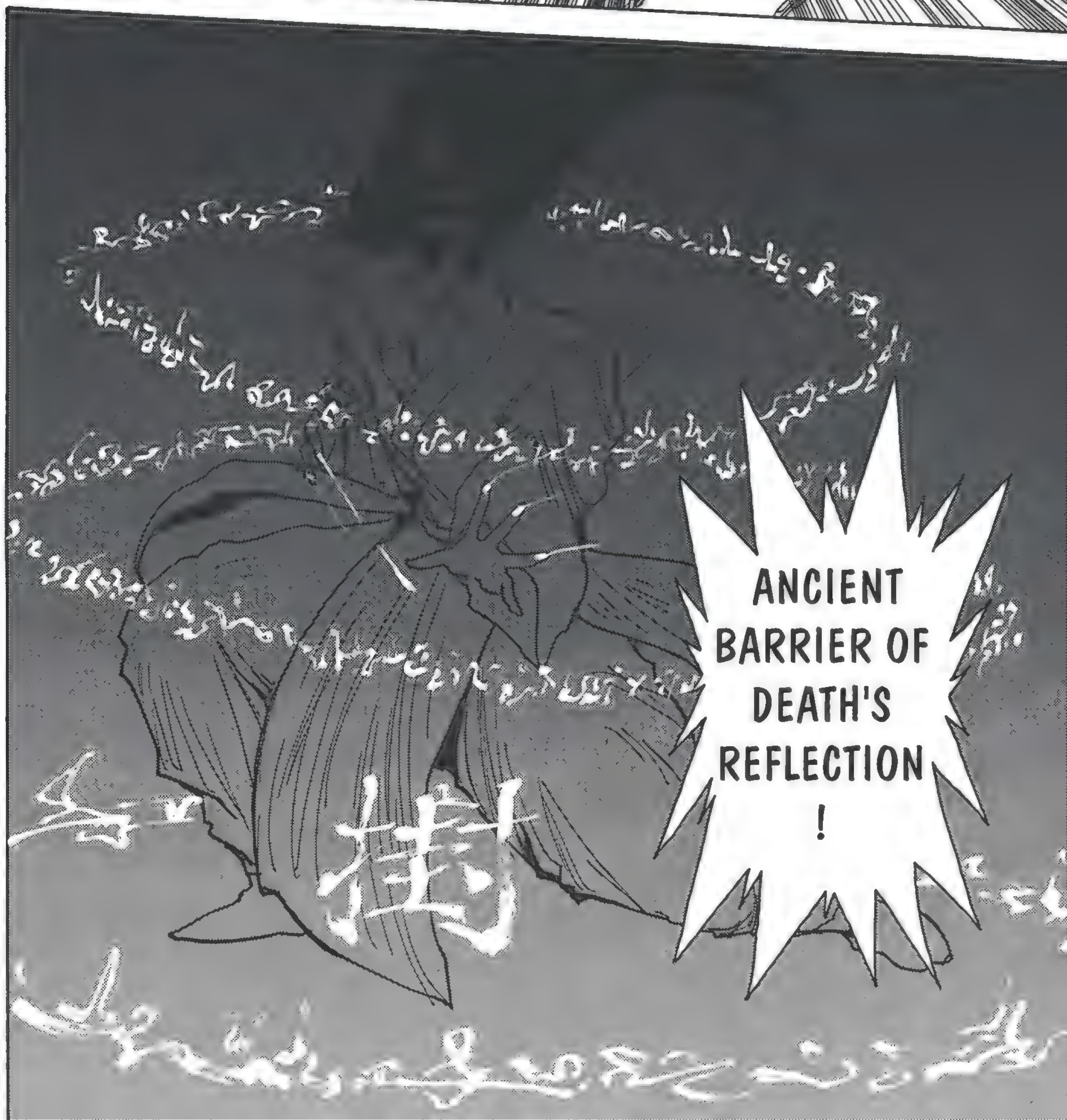


**BAW OOOOM**













HE  
FORESEES  
MY EVERY  
MOVE!  
I'M  
STYMIED!!

H-HE  
ABSORBED  
MY ATTACKS  
AGAIN!

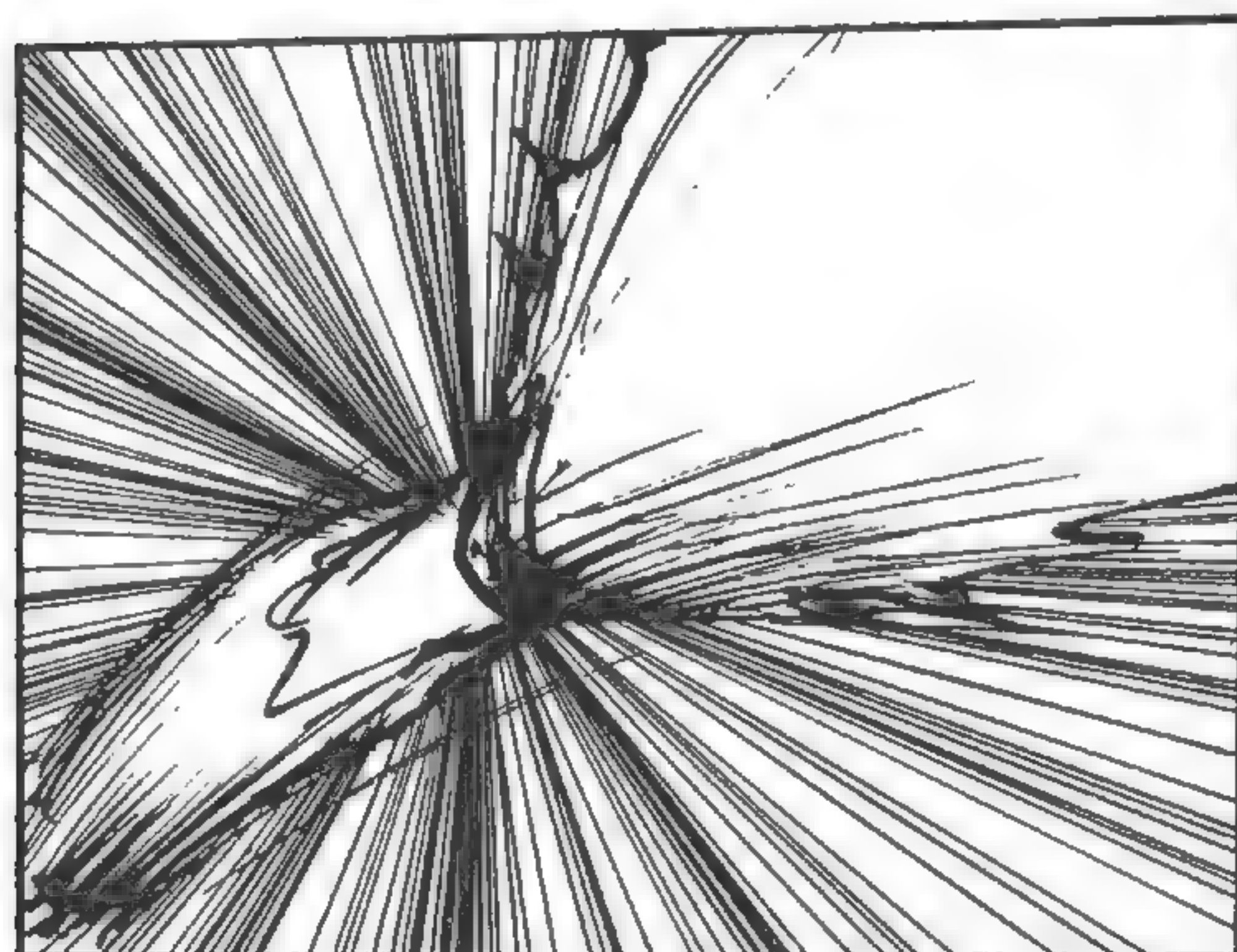
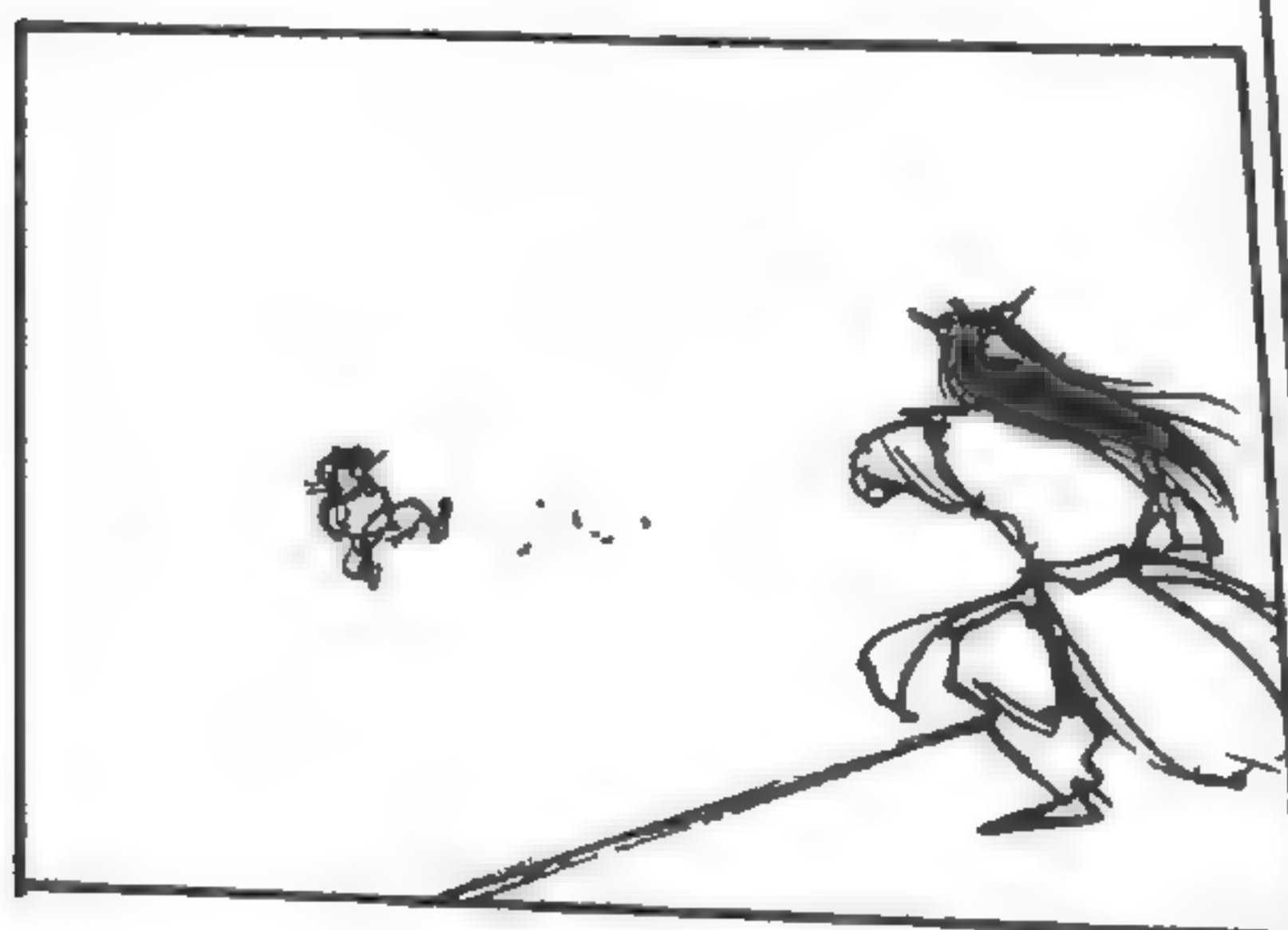


ALL RIGHT,  
MY TURN.

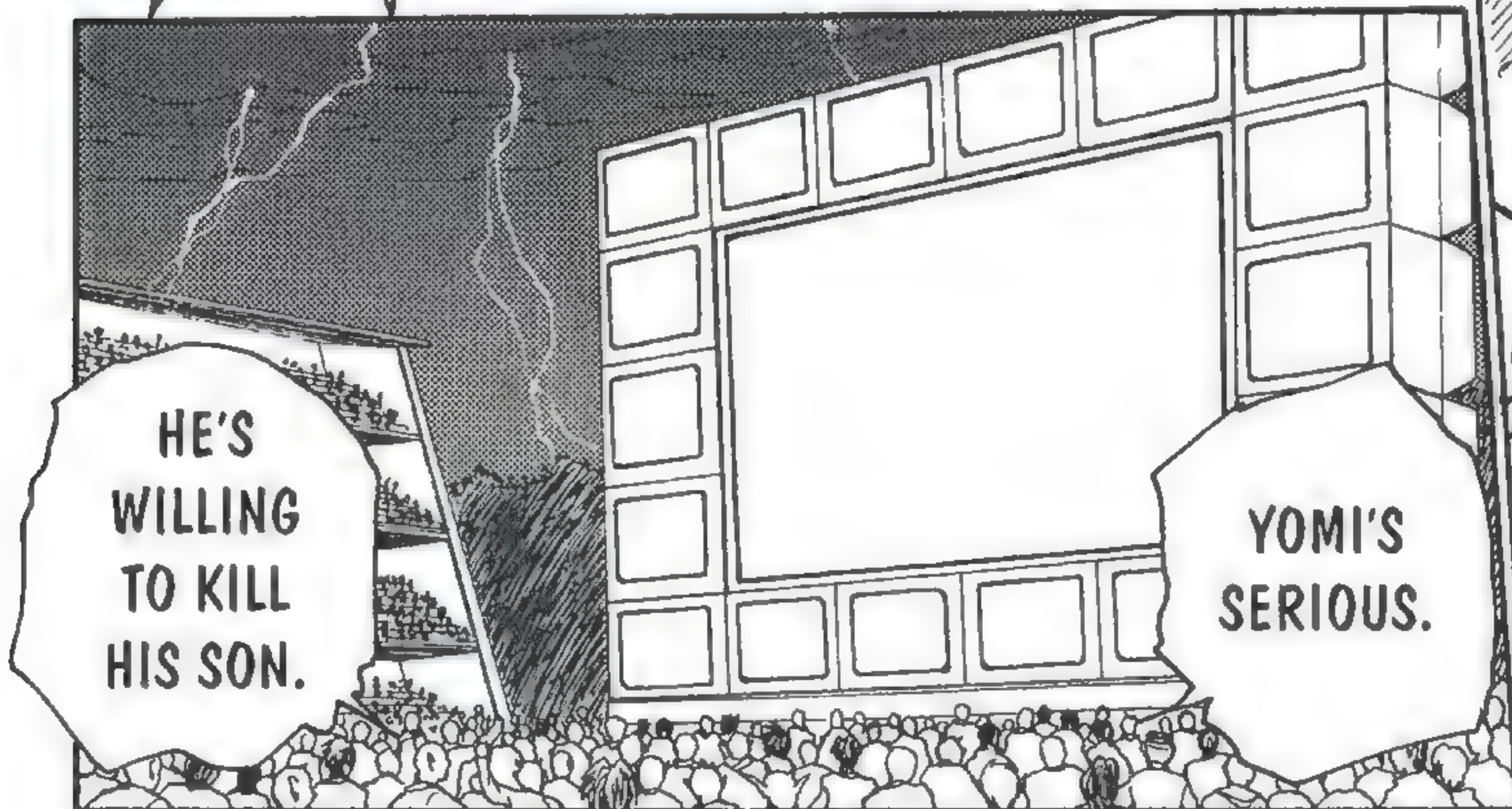
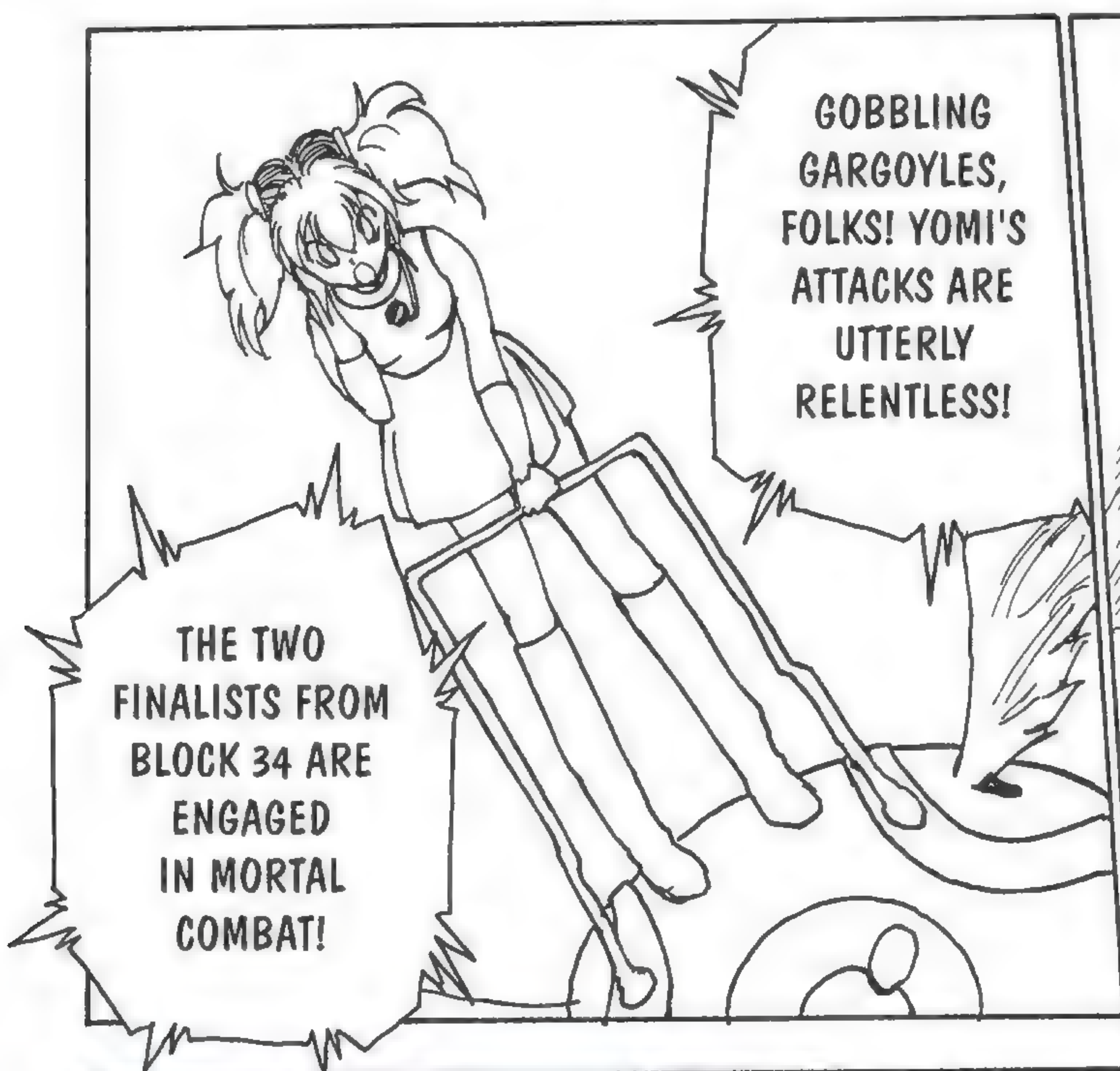
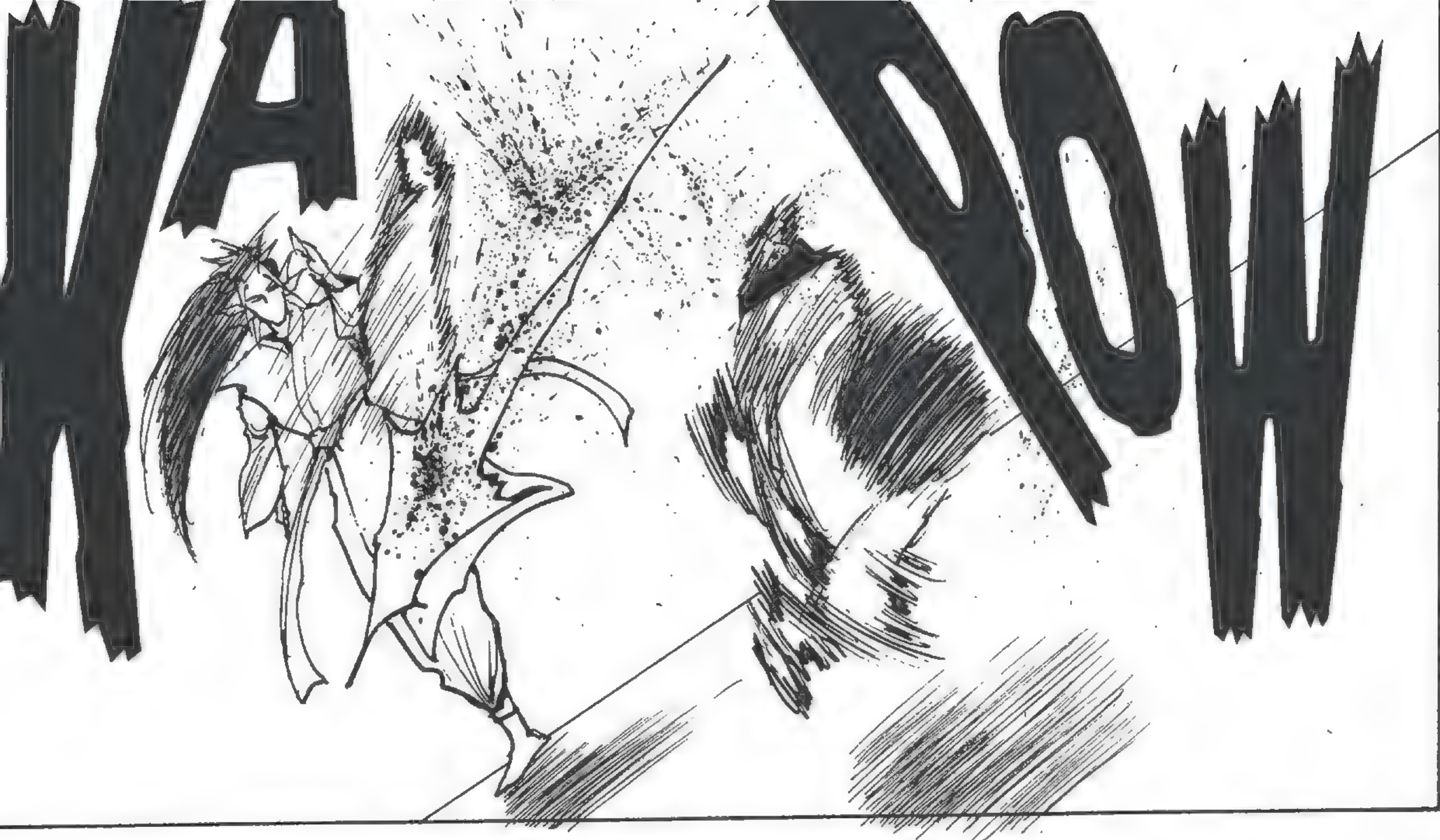
WELL? ARE  
YOU DONE?



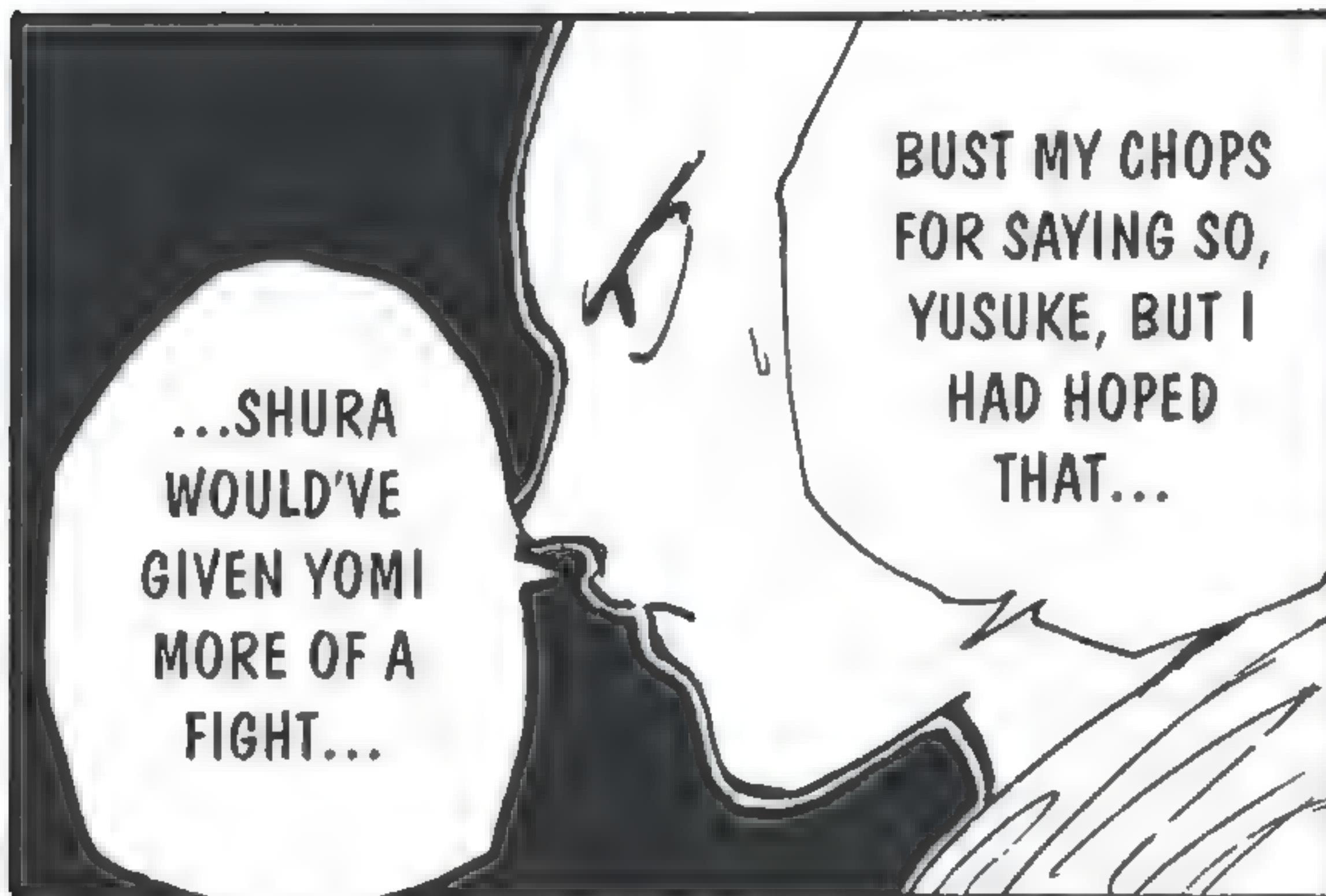




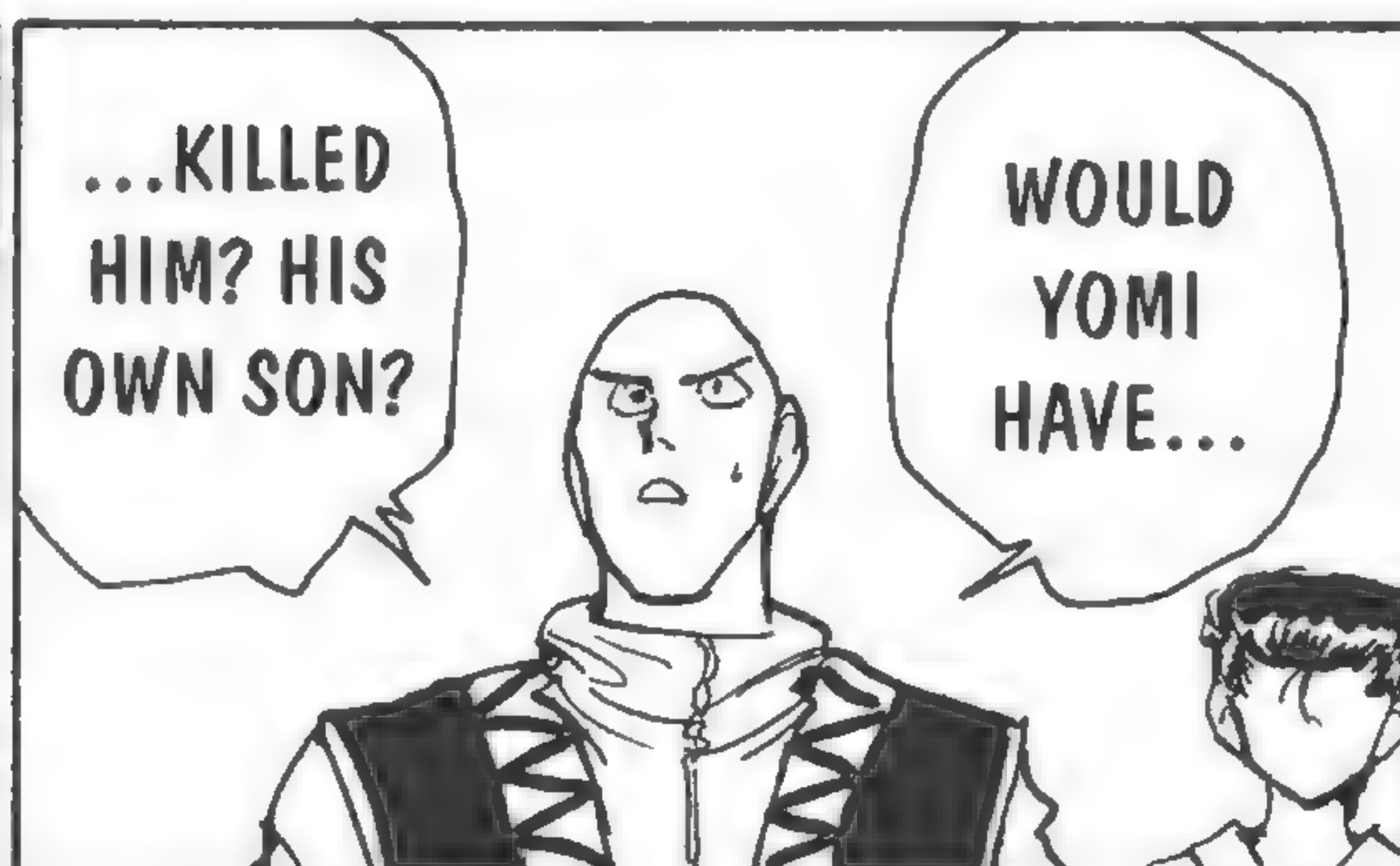
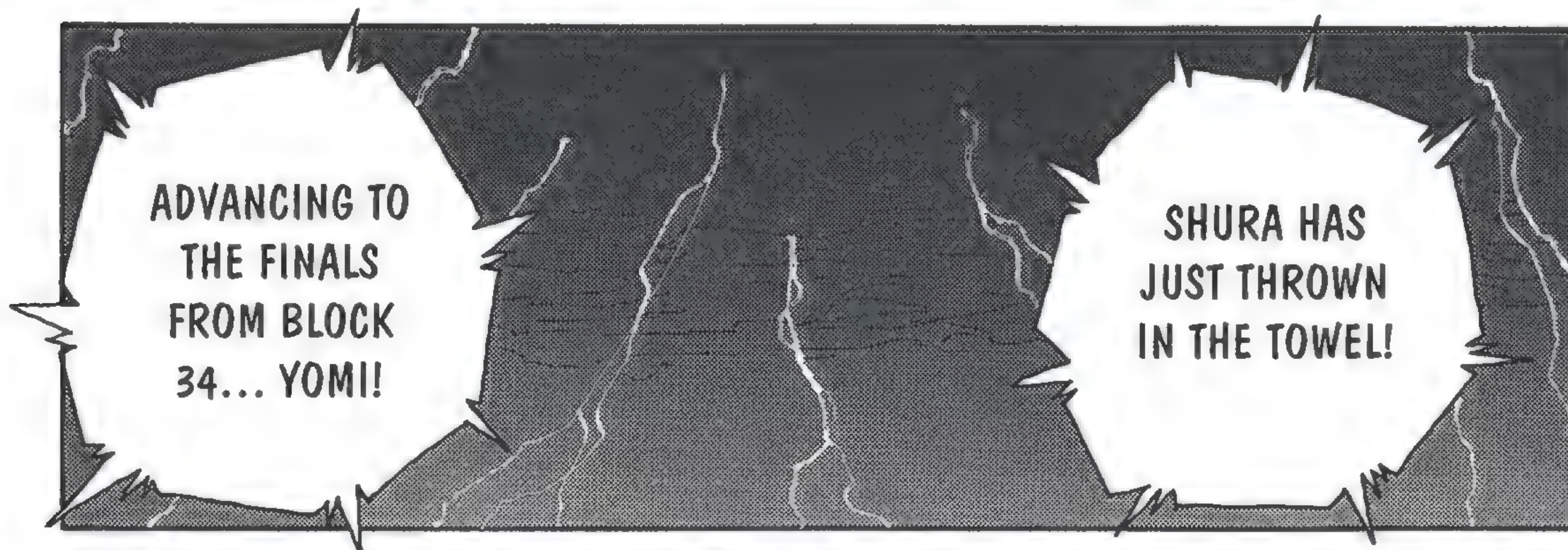
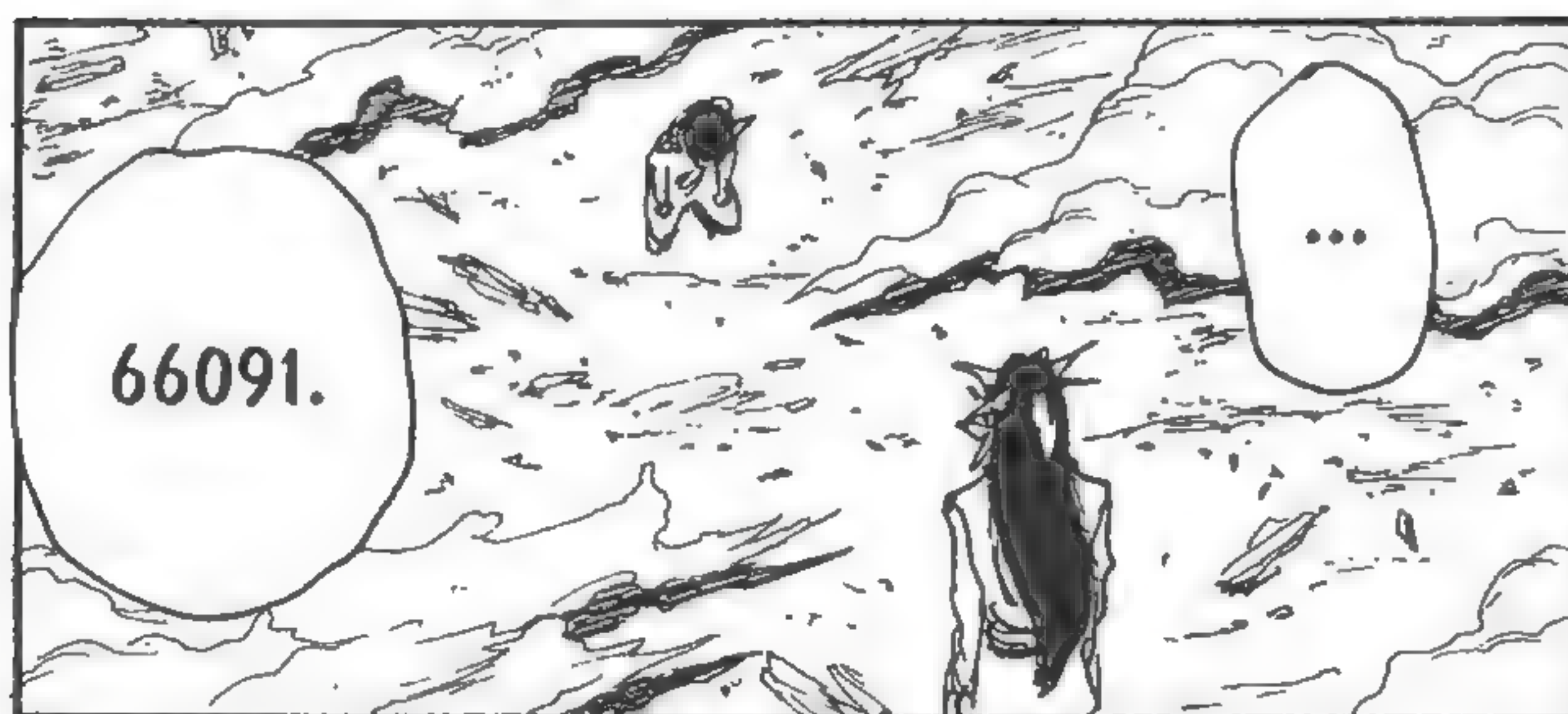






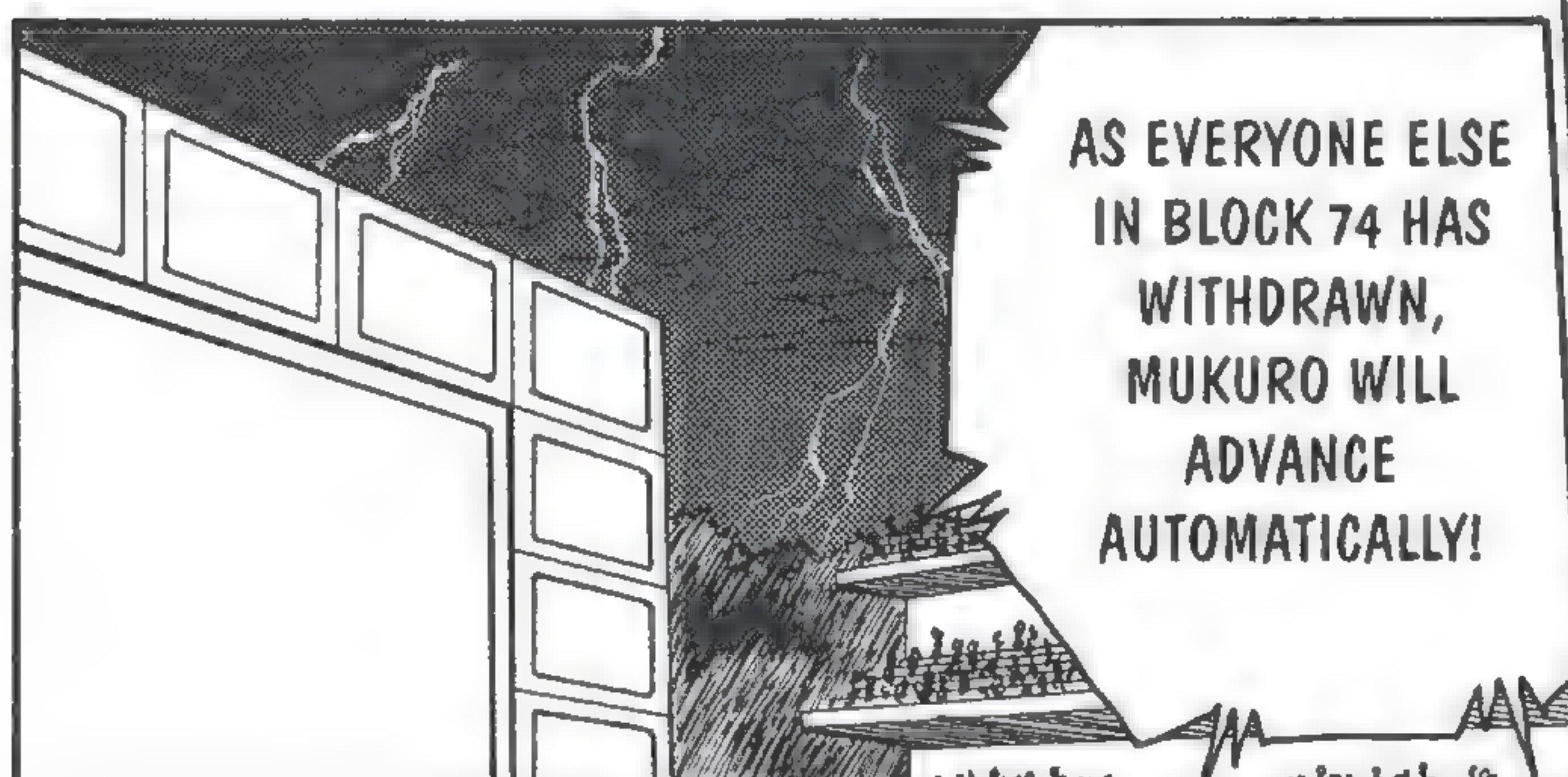








TO NO  
ONE'S  
SURPRISE,  
THE  
NOTEWORTHY  
ENTRIES  
SWEEP THE  
ELIMINATION  
ROUND.





BLOCK 106'S  
TURN  
ARRIVED...

THIS ROUND  
BEGINS...  
NOW!!

REMEMBER,  
THERE'S NO TIME  
LIMIT! ELIMINATION  
WILL OCCUR WHEN  
YOU LOSE YOUR  
COLLAR!

ON  
THREE...

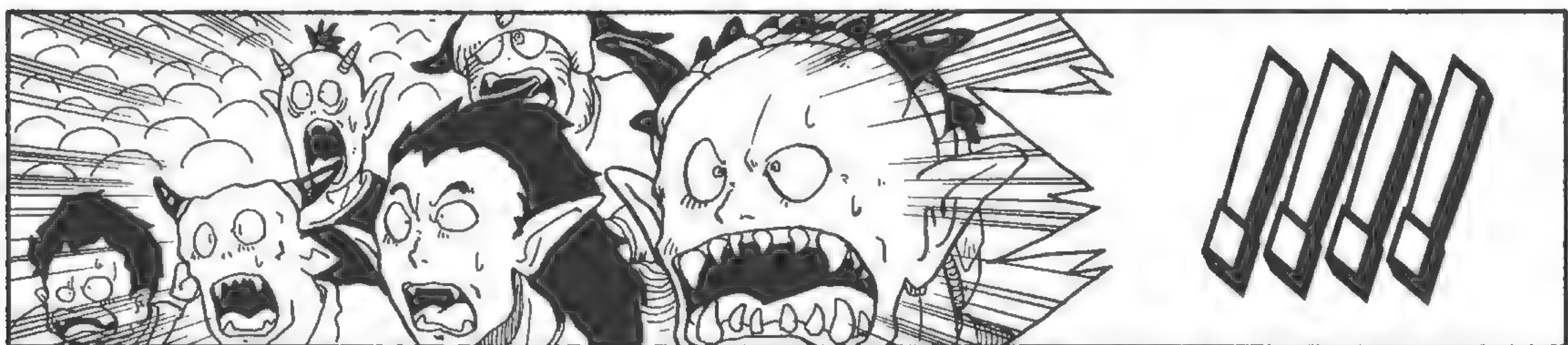
WE'LL  
PILE ON  
HIM  
FIRST.

ONE,  
TWO...

BOY, DO  
I FEEL  
BRACED!

THINK I'LL  
WARM UP  
A BIT.













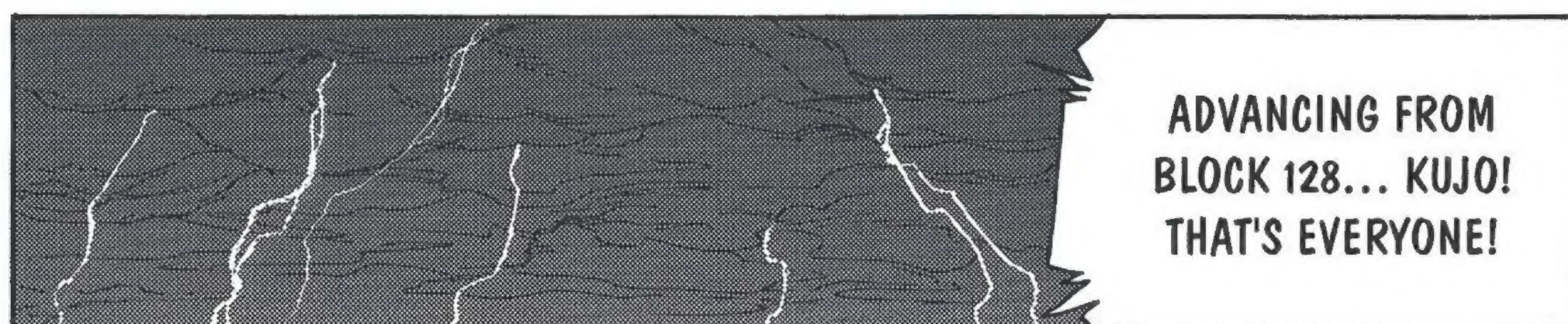




















BUT WOULDN'T IT  
BE COOL IF A  
TOURNAMENT LIKE  
THIS COULD BE HELD  
EVERY COUPLE OF  
YEARS TO DECIDE A  
LEADER? ELECTION  
BY COMBAT,  
Y'MIGHT SAY?

THE WINNER, OF COURSE,  
WILL DECIDE IF THERE  
EVER IS ANOTHER  
TOURNAMENT LIKE THIS!  
THAT'S HIS OR HER  
PRIVILEGE!



I  
WILL.

NEXT  
TIME, YOU  
BE UP  
THERE.

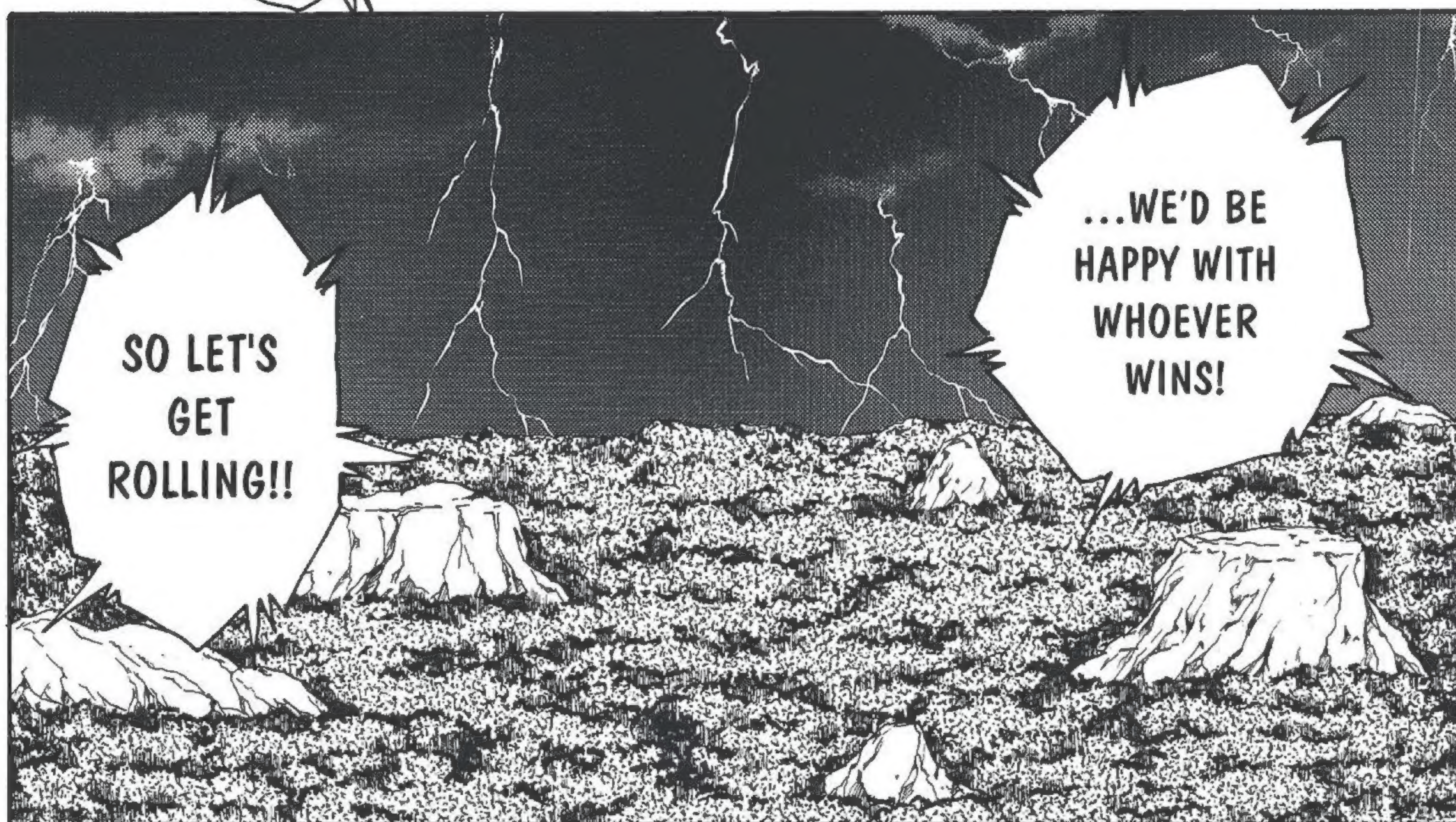


YES...

DADDY  
?



MAYBE I'M  
NUTS, BUT  
I'M PRETTY  
SURE...



SO LET'S  
GET  
ROLLING!!

...WE'D BE  
HAPPY WITH  
WHOEVER  
WINS!